

CAPTURE AND DESTRUCTION OF PARIS.

ONE of the saddest chapters in the world's history, if not the saddest chapter of all, is yet unfinished while we write; but enough has occurred to stamp the scenes that have this week been enacted in Paris with the character we have given them, and to make men grieve all the world over. The Versailles troops have at length entered the capital of France, easily enough at first, it would appear, but have since met with a desperate resistance, and have had to fight their way street by street, house by house, inch by inch, amid a perfect storm of shells, cannon-balls, rifle-bullets, and missiles of all sorts. There has been exhibited neither quarter, mercy, nor forbearance. The Government are practically in possession of Paris, but it is a city in ashes, strewn with heaps of slain; and still the work of destruction goes on. Unhappy France! Wretched Paris! First half-murdered by the hard hand of the only too-justly incensed German, you have now committed national suicide; and long years must pass away before you can again be the great country and the proud and beautiful city you were ten short months ago. It would be vain to search history for a parallel to the evil accomplished in France, and especially in Paris, since the fatal and fatuous declaration of war last July; it has no parallel. And the worst features of all are, that the most irreparable part of the destruction is the work of Frenchmen, that French hands are red with fraternal blood, and that the proudest monuments of France's greatness have been reduced to ashes by French firebrands. The picture these facts suggest is too depressing; we recoil from dwelling upon it.

CURRENT POLITICS.

MINISTERS have this year had experience of the truth of their late colleague's famous aphorism about the difficulty of driving six omnibuses abreast through Temple Bar. They commenced the annual Parliamentary journey with more than that number of vehicles, if not exactly abreast, yet closely crowded upon each other; and now they have practically only two coaches in hand. Not that the others have passed the strait and got into the broad thoroughfare beyond. Quite the contrary. With three exceptions, they have either been "shunted" to one side or await the performance of that process. There were the Army Bill, the Ballot Bill, the University Tests Bill, the Licensing Bill, the Mercantile Marine Bill, the Scotch Education Bill, the Local Rating and Management Bills, and several more of minor importance. Of these the Tests Bill has been practically passed, and—that is all. The Army and the Ballot Bills are still upon the cards, and Mr. Gladstone has declared his intention of pushing them on till "the definite judgment of the House has been obtained upon their merits." What this means is not quite clear. It may signify that Ministers intend to insist upon passing these measures this Session; but that implies obtaining the "definite judgment" of both Houses upon them; and the Premier spoke only of the Commons. Are we to suppose that he only meant the one House, not both? and that he despaired of getting a definite judgment upon—that is to say, an approval of—those measures in "another place"? If so, the Session will prove decidedly barren of actual legislation; for of all the other projects enumerated above, little more, we suspect, is likely to be heard this year.

For this wasting of an entire Session—for if neither the Army Regulation Bill nor the Ballot Bill becomes law, wasted the Session will have been—the military members will be primarily and mainly to blame, for they have clearly preferred the interests of their own order to those of the nation by entering into a conspiracy to talk the Session out rather than permit the abolition of purchase in the Army to be accomplished. And if there were no other grounds for condemning that obnoxious system, the very fact that the interests of individuals are allowed to override those of the public in this way would be condemnation sufficient, and consequently constitutes the best of all reasons for insisting upon abolition. It is supposed in some quarters that the opposition to the Army Bill is really directed against the Ballot Bill, for it is contended that the officer element in the House must desire the former to pass, seeing that so good terms as those now offered are not likely to be obtained hereafter; and we might suppose this to be true, did we not remember that the opponents of military reform are chiefly Conservatives, and that Conservatives never do know the right time to yield. They always oppose moderate reforms so long as opposition is possible, even at the risk—nay, the certainty—of having to accept more sweeping measures subsequently; and, so far as appears, the same mental blindness distinguishes them in the matter of Army reform as characterised them in regard to political, commercial, and educational reform. That the Ballot Bill is dreaded by Conservatives we do not doubt; but they detest the Army Bill too, and probably hope by opposing the one to get rid of both—for the present; and that is as much as they are capable of looking to. Ministers, how-



THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE: SALE OF WAR RELIQUES IN PARIS. —(SEE PAGE 328.)

ever, have it in their power to checkmate these obstinately purblind gentlemen. If it be made plain to the most obtuse even of the "stupid party" that not merely the "definite judgment" of the House of Commons is intended by the Premier's declaration, but the passage of these two important measures into law this Session, even though the sittings should be prolonged till the frosts come again, the "talking out" conspiracy would certainly collapse; for, though rich officers love their monopoly of promotion much, they and the rest of the country party love the shooting season more; and not even to save purchase for one year longer would they forego the heather and the stubble in August and September. So that, if Ministers be firm in their resolutions and distinct in their declarations, they must win; whereas, if they falter or be obscure, they are lost.

The tactics of the opponents of the Army Bill are as unwise as they are selfish and characteristic of the party to which most of them belong. The opposition of the Peers to popular reforms has ever had the effect of raising the question, what use a House of Peers serves—an inquiry that has hitherto been staved off by their Lordships yielding at the last moment; but these tardy concessions will not always serve the turn. The question will come to be entertained in downright earnest some day; for it is absurd to suppose that the People's Chamber is ever to be thwarted, the nation's time ever wasted, and the people themselves continually irritated, because "the Lords stand in the way." If the same tactics be persisted in, the obstruction will be swept out of the Legislative path some time or other. All concerned may be sure of that, and be wise in time. And the same is true of the military members of the House of Commons. As was intimated last week by our contributor, the writer of "The Inner Life of the House of Commons," the point is already being raised why military and naval servants of the Crown—which of course means of the country—should be eligible to sit in Parliament, and vote public money practically into their own pockets, when civil servants of the nation, with the exception of political Ministers, are debarred from that privilege—nay, are even denied, many of them, the right of voting at Parliamentary elections. If the self-denying ordinance be justly applicable to one class of public servants, it ought to be applicable to all; and when the privilege of sitting in the House of Commons enjoyed by military and naval officers is palpably abused for the furtherance of personal purposes, as it is in the case of this Army Bill, and, indeed, in all matters in which expenditure of public money is involved, the disposition to question the propriety of continuing that invidious and dangerous privilege will certainly grow and extend till it culminates in a demand for the exclusion of the militant element from the House. If officers, Peers, Conservatives, and privilege-mongers generally, were wise, they would consider these things, and be governed by prudence; but then they are not wise, and will probably, as is their wont, continue their present course of selfish obstruction till they provoke the fate we have indicated.

The Washington Treaty has suggested another important Constitutional question. It is a generally-received doctrine that the power of treaty-making, like those of declaring war and concluding peace, belongs exclusively to the Crown, Parliament having no right to pronounce an opinion till the business is concluded and the ratifications exchanged. This, we say, is the doctrine generally received on the point; and we believe it is technically correct, though in practice the rule has to some extent been modified of late years. But it is a dangerous doctrine, nevertheless; and, if rigidly acted upon, might lead to disastrous consequences. In the case of a declaration of war by the Crown—or by the responsible Ministers of the Crown—Parliament has a check that is immediately operative: it may refuse the supplies necessary to carry on a war of which it disapproves, and so prevent mischief ere it be too late. But in the case of treaty-making no such resource is available. A compact, however detrimental to national honour and disastrous to national interests, may be negotiated, concluded, ratified, and made irrevocable before Parliament even knows that any such transaction is in progress. This is not well. True, the Ministers concluding such a treaty may be impeached; but in that there is slender consolation—it would amount to a mere shutting of the stable-door after the steed has been stolen. The American system seems decidedly preferable in this respect to our own, even though inconvenience may occasionally be experienced in its working. The constitutional law of the United States is that while the Executive negotiates treaties, they are of none effect till ratified by the Senate. A modification in our Constitutional rule as to treaty-making might be advantageously introduced, so far as to give a power of discussion and of approval or disapproval to at least one branch of the great national council—Parliament—while still leaving negotiation in the hands of the Crown and its servants. Serious mischief might thus be prevented—not so much, perhaps, by the actual rejection of treaties, as by the greater degree of caution negotiators would be compelled to exercise.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ARMY AT HOME.—A War-Office return, dated March 2, gives an account of the total strength of the regular and auxiliary forces in each military district in Great Britain. Ireland is not included. In the home district the number of regular forces of all ranks is returned at 7753; south-eastern district, 13,839; southern, 10,190; western, 6339; eastern, 3766; northern, 7415; Woolwich, 6959; Aldershot, 11,785; North Britain, 3623; Shoburness, Ordnance Survey, &c., 1218; Channel Islands, 1110—making a total of 73,997. The total is composed as follows:—Cavalry, 8726; Royal Horse Artillery, 1917; Royal Artillery, 11,553; Royal Engineers, 3537; Infantry, 45,619; Army Service Corps, 2082; Hospital Corps, 563. The auxiliary forces are returned as 339,080—viz., 16,566 Army Reserve, 114,580 Militia, 14,041 Yeomanry Cavalry, 193,893 Volunteers—distributed thus: home district, 52,382; south-eastern, 14,750; southern, 12,409; western, 40,173; eastern, 22,008; northern, 125,516; Woolwich, 9556; North Britain, 61,436; Channel Islands, 8313.

Foreign Intelligence.

ITALY.

In Tuesday's sitting of the Chamber of Deputies the financial measure of the Government were discussed. Signor Sella declared that he adhered to the propositions which he had already previously arranged with the Committee, whereby seven millions of lire would be obtained. Consequently, the difference in the Estimates of the Minister and of the Committee will be reduced to thirteen millions. In order to obtain this amount, Signor Sella proposes to increase certain taxes. The Committee have reserved to themselves the right of examining this proposition.

In Rome, it is stated, public opinion is greatly excited by the fact that the Roman students have cheered for the second time the University professors who are favourable to Dr. Dollinger.

GERMANY.

In the North German Parliament, last Saturday, the second clause of the bill annexing Alsace and Lorraine to the German empire was read the second time, only two members voting against it. The Polish members, however, and a member from North Schleswig left the House before the division.

Conferences were held between Prince Bismarck and MM. Jules Favre and Puyeu-Quertier, last Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon, at Frankfurt. The labours of the negotiators consisted in the exchange of the ratifications of the treaty of peace, the settlement of the details relating to the payment of the indemnity, and the boundaries of the German garrisons in France.

The Chancellor of the German empire has issued a rescript, dated the 16th inst., ordering that all persons natives of or settled in Alsace and Lorraine who were required to leave the country by the German authorities during the war may now return to their homes without hindrance.

AUSTRIA.

The Emperor received the members of the Delegations on Tuesday, and, in reply to addresses from the Presidents, his Majesty made an earnest appeal to the patriotism of the delegates in the fulfilment of the tasks to which they were about to devote their attention. Addressing the Austrian Delegation, the Emperor stated that in the monarchy's foreign relations no change had occurred calculated to cause apprehensions of any serious complications or of any disturbance of peace.

THE DANUBIAN PRINCIPALITIES.

A great reaction has been manifested, during the recent elections, in favour of Prince Charles. Four electoral districts have voted for his Government. The Chamber will be opened on June 7, by Prince Charles in person. There was a great illumination at Bucharest, on Tuesday night, in honour of the anniversary of his ascending the throne.

AMERICA.

The Senate of the United States has ratified the treaty concluded by the High Joint Commissioners by 50 votes against 12. All the amendments were rejected by large majorities.

Earl De Grey and Ripon, Mr. Tenterden, Sir Stafford Northcote, and General Schneck sailed on Wednesday, on board the Cuba, for England.

General Butler opposed the Treaty of Washington before the committee of the Massachusetts Legislature. He declared that the fisheries would be ruined, and that the settlement of the claims was inequitable, adding that the American Commissioners had been over-reached in the entire business.

Both Houses of the New Brunswick Legislature have unanimously agreed to a resolution condemnatory of the terms of the Washington Treaty as affecting Canadian incidents.

THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—The anniversary meeting of the Royal Geographical Society was held on Monday—Sir Barde Erere in the chair. A letter was read from the retiring President, Sir Roderick Murchison, in which he stated that, in accordance with the strict injunction of his medical adviser, he was compelled to absent himself, although he had intended to be carried into the room, personally to take a farewell of the fellows of the society. The chairman delivered a very high eulogium on Sir Roderick, and announced that the committee had decided to present to him the founder's gold medal.

SIR JAMES MONCREIFF.—The Right Hon. James Moncreiff, of Kilduff, in the county of Kinross, Lord Justice Clerk of Scotland, on whom her Majesty has just conferred the honour of a baronetcy, is the second son of the late Sir James Wellwood Moncreiff, ninth Baronet of Tullibole, N.B. (sometimes one of the Lords of Session of Scotland), who died in 1851. His mother was Anne, daughter of a Scottish gentleman of old family, the late Captain George R. Bertson, R.N. He was born at Edinburgh on Nov. 29, 1811, and was educated at the High School, and afterwards at the University of Edinburgh. In 1833 he was called to the Scottish Bar, at which he for some time practised as an advocate. In February, 1850, he was appointed Solicitor-General for Scotland, and in the April of the following year succeeded, by promotion, to the office of Lord Advocate, which he held till February, 1852; again from the end of the same year till March, 1855; again from June, 1859, till July, 1866; and, for a fourth time, from December, 1868, to last year; when he was promoted to the posts which he at present holds—viz., that of "her Majesty's Justice Clerk and President of the Second Division of the Court of Session in Scotland, and also one of the Senators of Justice of that kingdom." He represented the borough of Leith, &c., in the Liberal interest, from April, 1851, till May, 1859, and the city of Edinburgh from then till December, 1868, when he was chosen the first member for the new constituency of the Universities of Glasgow and Aberdeen. Sir James is a Deputy Lieutenant for the county of Midlothian, is Lieutenant-Colonel of the Edinburgh volunteers, and was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University in January, 1869. He is also heir presumptive to the Scottish baronetcy of his elder brother, the Rev. Sir Henry Wellwood Moncreiff, of Tullibole. Sir James, who has sworn a member of the Privy Council in 1869, is well known as having carried through Parliament several bills of importance affecting Scottish interests, more especially in connection with the repeal of tests in the schools and Universities of that country, and with the subjects of bankruptcy and the valuation of land. He married, in 1834, Isabella, only daughter of Mr. Robert Bell, of Edinburgh, advocate, and Sheriff of the counties of Berwick and Haddington, and Procurator of the Kirk of Scotland, by whom he has a numerous family. His eldest son and heir to the two baronetcies is Mr. Henry James Moncreiff, advocate at the Scottish Bar, who was born in 1835, and married, in 1866, Susan Wilhelmina, third daughter of the late Sir William H. Dick-Cunynghame.

INVASION OF ENGLAND.—Can an enemy land an army on our shores? The great Napoleon failed in the attempt, and there is none else that can do it or that are likely to make the attempt. It is no easy thing to disembark an invading army; and for our satisfaction let us hear the testimony borne to this point by Mr. Vignolles, the president of the mechanical section in the late meeting of the British Association at Liverpool—"I think," said he, "I shall be disabusing the minds of many who have supposed this country is not prepared, or that the Government have been unwise of the necessity of creating the best means of communication in the event of invasion or war, by stating that for several years the military department at the Horse Guards and the chief engineers of the country have been in constant communication, and have formed deliberate arrangements by which, in the event of any casualty occurring, such as the invasion of the country, within forty-eight hours the whole of the military force of the country—100,000 men, if we had them at our disposal—might be, in forty-eight hours, brought to any one point of attack." Mr. Vignolles, next pointed out, by extracts from Mr. Kinglake's "Crimean War," "that in fine weather, without opposition, and under the guns of the fleet, it took five days to land 26,000 troops, 1000 horses, and 60 guns. These facts," Mr. Vignolles said, "would, he hoped, be some consolation to the old soldiers and old women as to our alleged want of preparation." It is very clear that we are in no such danger as to need any increase in our national forces; and we may even believe that we shall be just as secure if our bloated war establishments were cut down to more moderate dimensions, as we should be were they swollen into the boundless magnitude that our alarmists are continually clamouring for. We ought at least to reduce them to the level of the expenditure of 1850. The alarm of invasion had just then been raised, and we dwelt safely, untouched and unthreatened with a war service much lower in all its branches than the one we are now maintaining. We are now paying for our Navy nearly double what it cost us in 1850, and nearly as much as we then paid for both Army and Navy. Our Army now costs us nine millions more than it did at that date; and as much as Army, Navy, and Ordnance all combined in 1850. Ought not this needless, ruinous, and ever-growing expenditure to cease, or to be greatly curtailed? Ought not England, unscathed and untouched as she happily is, as an example to the world, and in mercy to her overburdened taxpayers, to be foremost in proclaiming a policy of peace, and in contenting herself with the establishments of peace?

THE CAPTURE OF PARIS.

ENTRY OF THE VERSAILLES TROOPS.

The Government troops are in possession of Paris, and the Commune has practically disappeared. On Sunday afternoon the first entry was made. By Monday afternoon the army of Versailles was in possession of Mont Parnasse and the Invalides on the south, and of the Champs Elysées and the Place du Nouvel Opéra on the north of the Seine. By Tuesday afternoon the heights of Montmartre themselves, with Clichy and St. Ouen, had been taken, and a force in possession of the Palais de l'Industrie was operating against the Tuileries.

The heights of Montmartre were taken on Tuesday, about noon, after a sharp but short struggle. It was at Montmartre that the insurrection first took shape and proclaimed its existence. It was at Montmartre that the guns had been stored by the National Guards, at first that they might not be given up to the Prussians, and then that they might be turned against the Executive Government and the National Assembly. It was at Montmartre that Clément Thomas and General Lecomte were murdered. Every circumstance tended to make the buttes assume in the eyes of the insurgents the distinction of a Mons Sacer; and, apart from all associations, their possession was of the highest strategical importance. When the allied armies approached Paris in 1814 and occupied Montmartre, the city immediately surrendered. Travellers of our own time entering Paris by the Northern Railway and driving down the Rue Lafayette to their customary haunts, saw rising on the right the steep streets which led up to the heights, and if they were of a very adventurous disposition they may have been tempted to ascend them that they might look down upon Paris. From this position the insurgents kept up a fire all Monday on the troops of the Assembly, dropping their shells along the Champs Elysées as far as the Trocadero. General Clinchant, who had pushed forward to the rear of the New Opéra, lay right under the range of their artillery, and it was plain that he must at once make a fresh advance or retire from the position he had gained. On Tuesday morning the further advance was begun. In spite of the fire from above, General Clinchant edged away to the left, and occupied Batignolles and the Place de Clichy, where he was joined by General Douay, who had advanced to the same point from the Arc de Triomphe by way of the Parc de Monceaux. The entrance to the Place de Clichy had been blocked by an elaborate barricade, which was carried by the two Generals, after a severe artillery and musketry engagement. General Ladmirault, creeping along outside the line of fortifications from Neuilly, seized upon St. Ouen, and turned Montmartre on the north. The insurgents, in spite of their position, were thus placed between two fires, and the heights were taken apparently by a coup de main. A large number of the insurgents are said to have been killed in the assault, as many as 4000 were made prisoners, and cannon and mitrailleuses were captured by hundreds. The storming of the heights was evidently a brilliant feat, in the historic style of the French army, and its effect must have told at once upon the contest in the heart of Paris. The Place de la Concorde was the scene of a strange struggle throughout the whole of Tuesday up to nightfall. The Versailles were in possession of the Palais de l'Industrie at the west side of the place, and held also the Palais Bourbon, the seat of the Corps Législatif, immediately across the river. On the other hand, the insurgents occupied the Tuileries gardens on the east, and the offices of the Admiralty on the north of the place, and a gun-boat stationed under the Pont Royal, where Parisians in more peaceful days used to bathe on board the mimic frigate, lent them efficient aid. A contest thus conducted for hours across the four sides of a square must have been terribly destructive; and if Montmartre had been able to shell the Palais de l'Industrie and the Palais du Corps Législatif, the position of the forces of Versailles would have been almost untenable. As it was, although the capture of Montmartre must have relieved them, they were not able to do more than hold their own against the mitrailleuses and artillery which, from the gardens of the Tuileries and the Rue de Rivoli, played across the square. The enthroned cities of France, thus placed between four fires, must needs have suffered; nor could the obelisk which had survived so many dynasties on the banks of the Nile have ever before been in such imminent peril of destruction as it was on Tuesday. The history of Paris, prolific as it has been of incidents of street-fighting, nowhere records anything so strange and so horrible as the picture forced upon our attention of men and fellow-countrymen grinding their mitrailleuses and pointing their cannon against one another across this square of concord. It is the climax of fraternal hate, the most forcible outward presentation possible of national dissension.

M. Thiers, on Monday afternoon, forwarded the following despatches to the Prefets of the several departments, giving the results so far:—

Versailles, May 27, 2 p.m.

"The course which events are taking justify the belief that we have now 80,000 men in Paris. General Cissey has taken up his position from the railway station at Mont Parnasse to the Ecole Militaire, and is proceeding along the left bank towards the Tuileries. Generals Douay and Vinoy are inclosing the Tuileries, the Louvre, and the Place Vendôme, in order subsequently to advance upon the Hôtel de Ville. General Clinchant, having made himself master of the Opéra, the St. Lazare railway station, and the Batignolles, has carried the barricades at Clichy. General Ladmirault is approaching the foot of Montmartre with two divisions. General Montauban, following the movement of General Ladmirault, has taken Neuilly, Le Vallois, Perrey, and Clichy, and is attacking St. Ouen. He has taken 105 guns and crowds of prisoners. The resistance of the insurgents is gradually declining, and there is every ground for hoping that, if the struggle is not finished to-day, it will be over by to-morrow at the very latest, and for a long time. With respect to the killed and wounded it is impossible to fix the numbers, but they are considerable. The army, on the contrary, has suffered but very slight loss."

3.45 P.M.

"The tricolour flag waves over the Buttes Montmartre and the Northern Railway station. These decisive points were carried by the troops of Generals Ladmirault and Clinchant, who captured between 2000 and 3000 prisoners. General Douay has taken the Church of the Trinity, and is marching upon the Mairie in the Rue Drouot. Generals Cissey and Vinoy are advancing towards the Hôtel de Ville and the Tuileries."

M. Thiers also announces to the prefects the arrest of M. Henri Rochefort, at Meaux. According to the *Gaulois*, M. Rochefort recently wrote to a lady to join him in Brussels on the 20th inst., and the letter was seized in the post-office and forwarded to Versailles. The information obtained from it would appear to have led to the arrest. M. Rochefort had already suspended the publication of his paper, the *Mot d'Ordre*, in consequence of the measures taken by the Commune against the press.

FIGHTING IN THE STREETS.

The progress of events may be gathered from the following despatches:—

Paris, Tuesday Afternoon.

The Communists are still being pushed back, but hold their ground with unexpected tenacity. It is but slowly, though surely, that the Versailles are gaining ground upon them. This is especially strange in face of the fact that some of their battalions—among them the 55th and 88th—refuse to fight altogether, while in nearly all the battalions there are numerous cases of individual desertion. Those which hold good fight desperately; and it is by no means improbable that the struggle, which most people expected would be over to-day, may drag on till the Versailles, by sheer fighting, have carried all the principal positions. They do not appear to be gaining ground near the north-east corner of the Place de la Concorde. The guns of the big barricade there are still being vigorously worked, firing apparently in the direction of the Palais de l'Industrie, held by the

Versailles. I was told by an artilleryman on the spot that the Versailles are given no time to intrench themselves, in consequence of the hard firing of the Communists, and are kept at bay by the mitrailleuses and by sharpshooters firing from the Tuileries gardens. There were numerous reserves on the spot, and the men seemed in good temper, and were fighting well. Behind the big barricade, a few hundred yards from the Rue de Rivoli, is another barricade made of bedding, &c. The Versailles seem likely, however, to turn the Rivoli barricades. They are said to have got down the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré, nearly as far as the British Embassy. Hard fighting is now (3 p.m.) going on at a barricade in the Rue St. Honoré, on the west side of the Rue Royale, and from the houses adjoining it come continuous flashes of musketry. Numbers of people are leaving their houses in the Rue St. Honoré, and carrying off what little property they can at great risk, as the bullets come down the street, and occasional shells. Fighting is also going on at the end of the Boulevard Malesherbes, between the Madeleine and the Rue de l'Arcade. Barricades were made during the night crossing the Rue Comartin and the Rue Auber. The Versailles are also gaining ground near the Chaussée d'Antin. They have thus nearly surrounded the Communists.

Wednesday Evening.

The barricade of the insurgents at the end of the Rue Royale was taken, on Thursday night, by a movement in which the troops made their way from house to house, starting from the Rue Boissy d'Anglais to the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré. The fighting in the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré and the Avenue Marigny was very severe. Six shells fell and exploded in the grounds of the British Embassy. The two houses which formed the angles at the corners of the Rue Royal and the Rue Faubourg St. Honoré were burnt to the ground. The Place Vendôme was taken by the troops. In the Faubourg St. Germain during the whole night an energetic combat was raging between the insurgents and the men of General Cussy's division.

The Versailles batteries are firing furiously against the quarters which still hold out. By the aid of the telescope the horrible fact is disclosed of numerous dead and wounded left lying about the streets without any succour whatever.

Versailles, May 25, Noon.

The troops have captured the Hôtel de Ville, and have occupied Fort Montrouge. The military operations are being actively and energetically carried on by the three corps which are now in Paris. It is hoped that they will be in possession of the whole of the capital by this evening. It is asserted that General Vinoy has been appointed Governor of Paris. The newspapers state that Delecluse, Cluseret, Felix Pyat, and Ravier have been made prisoners, but the news is not officially confirmed. The damage done to the various quarters of Paris is considerable. Many houses have been burnt or seriously injured. Firemen have been summoned by telegraph from all the districts around Paris.

THE CITY IN FLAMES.

The correspondent of the *Times* telegraphs as follows at 7.45 p.m. on Wednesday:—

"I have just returned from witnessing one of the saddest sights that has occurred in the world's history. In a former telegram I announced that the insurgents had set fire to several of the public buildings of Paris, the Royal and historical Tuileries included. I have since been for some hours in the magnificent city, which flames and bombshells are fast reducing to a huge and shapeless ruin. Its architectural beauties are fast passing away in smoke and flame, such as have never been witnessed since the burning of Moscow, and amid a roar of cannon, a screaming of mitrailleuses, a bursting of projectiles, and a horrid rattle of musketry from different quarters which are appalling. A more lovely day it would be impossible to imagine—a sky of unusual brightness, blue as the clearest ever seen, a sun of surpassing brilliancy, even for Paris, scarcely a breath of wind to ruffle the Seine. Such of the great buildings as the spreading conflagration has not reached stand in the clearest relief as they are seen for probably the last time; but in a dozen spots, at both sides of the bridges, sheets of flame and awful volumes of smoke rise to the sky and positively obscure the light of the sun. I am making these notes on the Trocadero. Close and immediately opposite to me is the Invalides, with its gilded dome shining brightly as ever. The wide esplanade of the Ecole Militaire, almost immediately underneath it, is nearly covered with armed men, cannon, and horses. Shells from the positions of General Cussy, at Montrouge, are every minute falling close to the lofty dome of the Pantheon. It and the fine building of Val de Grace, near it, seem certain to be destroyed by missiles before the incendiary fire reaches them. There is a dense smoke close to St. Sulpice, and now flame rises amid the smoke, and the two towers of the church are illuminated as no electric light could illuminate them. Some large building is on fire there. Everyone asks which it is; but no one can approach that quarter, to put the matter beyond doubt. Burnt leaves of books are flying towards us, and the prevailing opinion is that the Sorbonne and its library are being consumed. There are a dozen other fires between that and the river. The chateau of the Tuileries has all but disappeared. The centre cupola has fallen in, and so has the roof along the entire length of the building. Some of the lower stories yet burn, for fire and smoke are rushing fiercely from the openings where, up to this morning, there were window-frames and windows.

The Louvre is not yet wholly gone, and perhaps the fire will not reach all its courts. As well as we can make out through the flame and smoke rushing across the gardens of the Tuileries, the fire has reached the Palais Royal. Every one is now crying out, "The Palais Royal burns!" and we ascertain that it does. We cannot see Notre Dame or the Hôtel Dieu. It is probable that both are fast becoming ashes. Not an instant passes without an explosion. Stones and timber and iron are flying high into the air, and falling to the earth with horrible crashes. The very trees are on fire. They are cracking, and their leaves and branches are like tinder. The buildings in the Place de la Concorde reflect the flames, and every stone in them is like bright gold. Montmartre is still outside the circle of the flame; but the little wind that is blowing carries the smoke up to it, and in the clear heavens it rises black as Milton's Pandemonium. The New Opera House is as yet uninjured; but the smoke encircles it, and it will be next to a miracle if it escapes. We see clearly now the Palais de Justice, the Ste. Chapelle, the Prefecture of Police, and the Hôtel de Ville are all blazing without a possibility existing of any portion of any one of them being saved from the general wreck and ruin.

The Luxembourg Palace has been partially blown up by the insurgents. The Palais Royal is burning. It is believed that a third only of the Louvre will be saved.

STATEMENT OF M. THIERS TO THE ASSEMBLY.

In the sitting of the National Assembly on Wednesday afternoon M. Daturel, a member of the Right, required information respecting the presence in Paris of M. Jules Ferry as Prefect. M. Thiers, who spoke with a voice broken by emotion, said he was always ready to listen to the advice of the Assembly. "The melancholy events of which Paris has become the scene," said M. Thiers, "cause me deep affliction. The insurrection is overcome. The odious act—one unparalleled in history—of which some villains have just been guilty, is the crowning act of their despair." M. Thiers proceeded to describe the strategic movements of the army, confining the insurrection to one point and surrounding it:—"The Generals, desiring to treat the city with lenity, withheld any attack upon public monuments in which the insurgents had taken up positions. This morning they carried the Place de la Concorde. The Ministry of Finance, the Hôtel of the Conseil d'Etat, the Palace of the Legion of Honour, and the Palace of the Tuileries were burnt by the insurgents. When the troops gained possession of the Tuileries, it was but a mass of smouldering ashes. The Louvre will be saved to us. Another grievous piece of intelligence is that the Hôtel de Ville is in flames.

No one could have prevented the crime of these wicked wretches. They have made use of petroleum for their incendiary purposes, and have sent petroleum bombs against our soldiers. What remedy can be applied, you will ask? Let us preserve a cool judgment. The remedy is union. Without that we shall never attain to anything but resolutions which will be disputed and ever disputable. Let us first complete the victory it has been difficult to procure. The best of the Generals of the army have shown an amount of talent and valour which has excited the admiration of foreigners, who have expressed it to us. After what we have already done I implore the Assembly to allow us to complete this work, which weighs heavily upon us, inasmuch as our efforts are directed against Frenchmen. There should be no distrust of us. When the insurrection shall have been suppressed we shall not fail to punish, according to law but implacably. Our right of pardon we invite you to share with us. It is false that the National Guard is being rearmed. Some officers, partisans of order, caused the rappel to be beaten at Passy, and have collected men who are known to be trustworthy. I have given orders that this proceeding be discontinued. It is by an error that M. Jules Ferry has been mentioned in the *Journal Officiel* as Prefect of the Seine, no one could be found willing to accept the responsibility and burden of that office. Such a functionary, however, was absolutely necessary to intervene between the army and the civil population. An appeal was then made, and not without success, to the patriotic devotion of M. Ferry, who has already performed those functions. All that is but provisional. The population must be disarmed. Mairies will be appointed. Be not impatient. Leave us to finish our task, and never again will the country see such an insurrection. I long for repose; you can confer it upon me ('No, no'), but pray do not add to our difficulties. We share your sorrows, your anguish. Allow us to act with calmness. We have need of all our coolness and of full freedom of mind."

AN ADVENTURE IN PARIS.

I HAD a rather curious adventure two or three nights ago, which I will relate to you as giving a good idea of life in Paris under the present order of things. I happened to be walking on the Boulevard des Capucines with a friend about half-past eleven at night. As we passed by a well-known café there which goes by the name of Peter's, about half a dozen guards suddenly stopped before one of the doors, went up stairs, leaving one of their number outside, and the officer in command gave the order aloud, in an angry tone of voice, that whoever attempted to escape from the house was to be shot. "Draw on him; you have my orders." I congratulated myself that I was not in the café, and that I could go home quietly to rest. After looking on for a few moments at the perplexity of the captives, who were peering wistfully out of the doors behind sentinels, I imagined that there was nothing more to be seen. I have seen scores of arrests in this fair city of Paris, and it did not seem worth one's while to spend the night in looking out for another. My friend and I turned on our heels to go home. We had gone but a few steps when we were stopped by sentinels, who cried out lustily, "On ne passe pas." We drew back, and took the opposite direction. Again a line of sentinels, and again "On ne passe pas." The boulevard was lined with sentinels, who were taking possession of all passers, and driving them into the café, which was surrounded. The sentinels came up to me and said that I must go into the café. I told them as blandly as I could that I preferred to go home. The answer I received was, "I will blow your brains out if you do not go in at once." I walked in at once, and saw a very curious sight.

Peter's was in these Communal times about the most convenient café on the boulevards. In the first place, it kept open till twelve o'clock. The Grand Café, the Café de la Paix, and nearly all the cafés that are most distinguished and frequented in ordinary times, closed about eleven o'clock, and so lost nearly all their custom. Then at Peter's you could always get an addition to Viennese and English beer, to syrups and hot grogs, those iced American drinks for which men seem to have a weakness when midnight approaches, and which the ingenious minds of France just now have begun to study with a good deal of interest. Furthermore, at Peter's you could get supper—nothing very great, and something very dear—but still supper. It was the only known house in Paris where this privilege was enjoyed. The doors were closed at midnight, and then all the world went up stairs to public or private supper-rooms, where they ate and drank, and chatted, and played cards till three or four in the morning. Why this extraordinary privilege was accorded to Peter's I do not know. Perhaps it was supposed that Paris would be too unendurable if there was not even one place where the officers of the staff, or anyone else after a hard day's work, might find food and amusement after midnight. With these advantages, however, Peter's had a source of weakness in the fair sex. Of course the English reader is much horrified to hear that women are allowed to go to a café by themselves; but they have free entrance into nearly every café in Paris, and the only peculiarity of Peter's was to be frequented by the most select of the cocottes. It was a strange society this of Peter's. If the café was a convenient rendezvous for us men who want to chat with each other, or to have a glass of beer before going to bed, it was also convenient for the idlers. Whenever you went there you saw always the same faces as at a club.

When, at the orders of the sentinels, I entered the café I did not know half what I now know, or I should have been completely at my ease; but, as it was, I had a great advantage over most of those with whom I found myself mixed—first, in being a foreigner; next, in having been forced into the café; and, lastly, in knowing that I had friends among the Commune who would release me the moment I let them know of my position. So I could regard with equanimity and cheerfulness the excitement around me. Those who were most excited were certain persons who were thrust into the café from the boulevards. There was a little fair-haired English girl, who was coming from the Gymnase Theatre with her sweetheart, and who was the amusement of all the French by the freshness of her beauty and the simplicity of her manners. There was another sweet-faced girl—sweet seventeen—who had just lost her father, and who was passing along with her godfather. The good fish and the bad alike were taken on the boulevard in one net. There was a young creature who was in tears for her children at home. The cocottes were anxious in their eyes, but, as their wont is, sufficiently calm and collected in manner. With them were groups of elegant dandies—officers, colonels, majors, captains—and the usual undistinguished mob of a café. Misfortune made us all wondrous kind to each other. Everybody spoke to everybody. In ordinary times a man of sense would no more think of talking to a lady sitting at the next table to his—even if he knew her—than he would think of talking to the table at which she sat. Now, by a strange accident, we were all one family; and as, for the reasons I have given, I was very much at my ease, I managed to get a good many confidences. I must say, however, that I was selfish, and wanted to get away. The commandant of the battalion, who had seized upon us all, was in the café, and had installed himself at a table with his companions. He and the prettiest woman in the room sat down to drink beer. He was called away for a few minutes, and I seized the opportunity to open a conversation with the lady. I suppose my audacity took her by surprise; for she at once consented to do what I asked, which was to make the commandant let me out. I retired while waiting for the return of the commandant. He did not stay long, but returned to his place, when he was constantly assailed by the lady. I had the satisfaction of seeing him come to me, of accepting the arm which he offered to me, and of hearing him say that I should be free in a minute. He led me to the door, but there we were stopped by a small gentleman of the name of Forestier, who was the commissary of police charged with the arrest, and who declared that no one whatever should leave the café. I was forced to remain.

At half-past three in the morning we were marched out into the

boulevards and then marched off to the Hôtel de Ville; while, under pretence of some horrid plot which had been discovered, the officer in command cried out, "Whoever destroys a scrap of paper will be instantly shot—these are my orders." Reaching the Hôtel de Ville, we were incarcerated in the splendid saloons where the late Prefect of the Seine gave his balls. In those gorgeous apartments, with all their fine furniture swathed in calico, all the cocottes of Paris were imprisoned, with about a hundred of mankind. The Commissary Forestier announced that all foreigners would be released in a few minutes. The few minutes proved to be an hour, and in the mean time it was deemed advisable to separate us. The ladies were left in one ball-room and the men were put into another. I do not know much more; for, after sleeping for an hour on the sofa, and watching the cold morning light brightening about the Seine and Notre Dame, I was sent for to be interrogated, and got released at once. The First Commissary of Police, Citizen La Chapelle, behaved with the greatest courtesy to me and to all.—Correspondent of "Daily News."

FLOODS IN AMERICA.

A LETTER from New York gives the following information regarding the crevasse in the levee of the Mississippi, lately reported:—

"The Bonnet Carré crevasse is 1400 ft. wide, says a telegram from Louisiana, and the ends of the great levee are still gradually crumbling foot by foot into the water as the current undermines them. This crevasse, which is the most extensive that has been formed on the Mississippi levee, is on the east side of that river, and the question is asked, Why are the crevasses always on the eastern side. From Cairo to New Orleans all the bluffs on the eastern shore of the Mississippi are caving in. It is said the motion of the earth on its axis, or the results of some general law of nature, cause this uniform and constant abrasion of the left bank. Fort Pillow, near Memphis, an earthwork famous during the rebellion, has wholly disappeared. There is not a vestige left of an earthwork built by the Confederates on the Tennessee shore near Randolph, above Memphis. The river has cut out cavernous depths for its currents beneath the bold hills, and they have crumbled and fallen, hillsides sometimes disappearing in a single night. This work of desolation is mainly upon the eastern side, and so well is this known that property values along that shore have declined many millions of dollars. At Memphis there is especial alarm, for the land is being washed away that protects the city, and inroads upon the buildings are feared. There is a navy yard there upon a portion of which a mortgage was once created. The mortgage subsists, but the property securing it has been disposed of by a power beyond the reach of Chancery. The Mississippi selects its own channel, and is vacillating in its choice. At Bonnet Carré the dread is that the capricious river has chosen this overland path as a short cut to the Gulf, and that New Orleans might possibly be left an inland town. Lake Ponchartraine is but a few miles distant from the point where the crevasse broke. When the levee gave way the surface of the river was 22 ft. above the surface of the lake. The land on the eastern shore of the Mississippi is 10 ft. above the lake, and the levee about 12 ft. high. In the first mile from the river the slopes 5 ft. towards the lake, so that when the river broke through the declivity was 17 ft. in the first mile, 12 ft. being the rest 100 ft., and the surface a light alluvial soil. The swift current, which runs eight to ten miles an hour, may be checked; and as from one fifth to one sixth of the entire volume of the Mississippi at that point pours through the opening, and thence courses swiftly overland to the lake in a broad deep channel it has cut for itself, the fears of the entire diversion of the river are not unfounded. Thousands of persons visit the crevasse, the scene having a sublime attraction, the roaring of the waters being heard for over a mile. Unremitting efforts are made to save the ends of the levee, but they are unsuccessful—it still slowly yields to the current. The river has subsided somewhat, but the water is still high and the current irresistible. The lowlands around New Orleans are being gradually overflowed by the water from this great crevasse."

The writer adds:—"Another crevasse has occurred—in the Erie Canal in New York—which causes as much comment as Bonnet Carré, as it has entirely suspended navigation on that great canal. It occurred, on April 25, near Rochester, at a point where the canal crosses a broad ravine in a range of hills. To effect this crossing an embankment has been constructed 40 ft. high, about 150 ft. wide at the bottom, and 20 ft. wide at the top. It is not quite a mile long. The ravine above this bank narrows in the hillside, and is flooded to save the cost of building another embankment, and the water is at the deepest parts about 30 ft. deep. The flooded portion covers probably twenty or thirty acres, and below the embankment the ravine stretches away into a low, marshy, and sparsely-wooded country. The weight of the water which had been but a few days before let into the canal proved too much for the bank, which gave way about midnight. Three boats were being towed along the canal at the time, one of them—the Basney Bird—being exactly where the break occurred. The driver cut the tow-line and saved his horses, but the boat was carried into and through the breach by the current and a mile across the lowlands, until it ran aground. Two men and a woman performed this perilous midnight journey on the canal-boat, escaping unharmful. The current soon washed a large channel in the embankment, carrying out not only the side, but the bottom of the canal, and making a breach 150 ft. wide. It only ceased flowing when all the available water had run out of the level, which is seventeen miles long. To repair it the estimate is that there will be required the labour of 1000 men and 200 horses for a month, and during that time navigation will be suspended. The damage to the canal and the detention to merchandise are estimated at 1,000,000 dols. As at Bonnet Carré, the current sought an outlet, sweeping down the ravine and across the lowlands, until it reached Lake Ontario, carrying away roads, buildings, bridges, mill-dams, &c., in its course. Large numbers of labourers were set to work at Fairport, near Rochester, where the Erie Canal break occurred; but drenching rains at first prevented labour, then a strike occurred, and finally there was a riot that assumed such formidable proportions that two companies of soldiers had to be sent from Rochester to maintain order. Several persons were wounded in the riot; but, after a skirmish, the military succeeded in capturing the leading rioters, and they have been lodged in gaol. The strikers then surrendered; and, the rains abating, work was resumed."

THE TOTAL RECEIPTS INTO THE EXCHEQUER from April 1 to the 20th inst. were £7,702,970, while the expenditure had amounted to £8,667,714. The balance in the Bank of England on Saturday last was £3,540,355.

SCENE AT A SCHOOL BOARD.—A remarkable scene was witnessed, on Wednesday, at the meeting of the Birmingham School Board. Since the first meeting of the board literally nothing has been done but proposing, postponing, or abandoning a series of motions by the Church party, in favour of a line of policy which the Dissenting minority oppose with all the means at their disposal. No census of the educational wants of the town has yet been even begun; no steps have been taken to build new schools; and nothing appears possible of accomplishment until the questions of the by-laws and payment to existing denominational schools are settled; and on these the two parties are engaged in a contest of which the end appears as far off as ever. On Wednesday Mr. Chamberlain again urged the postponement of the by-laws till November. If they proceeded to enforce compulsion before the board schools (which would be denominational) were built, they would incur the risk of a riot, and in such a case his sympathies would be with the rioters; and, if they proceeded to pay fees to denominational schools before unsectarian schools were built, they would have the rates refused in a great number of instances, and the old question of church rates would again be raised, with a result as to which former experience has left no doubt. The proposal to postpone the by-laws was lost by the Dissenters, whereupon all the members of the minority retired from the table, and took no further part in discussing the by-laws. On their names being called they answered "absent," Mr. George Dawson remarking that he was present in body but absent in spirit.



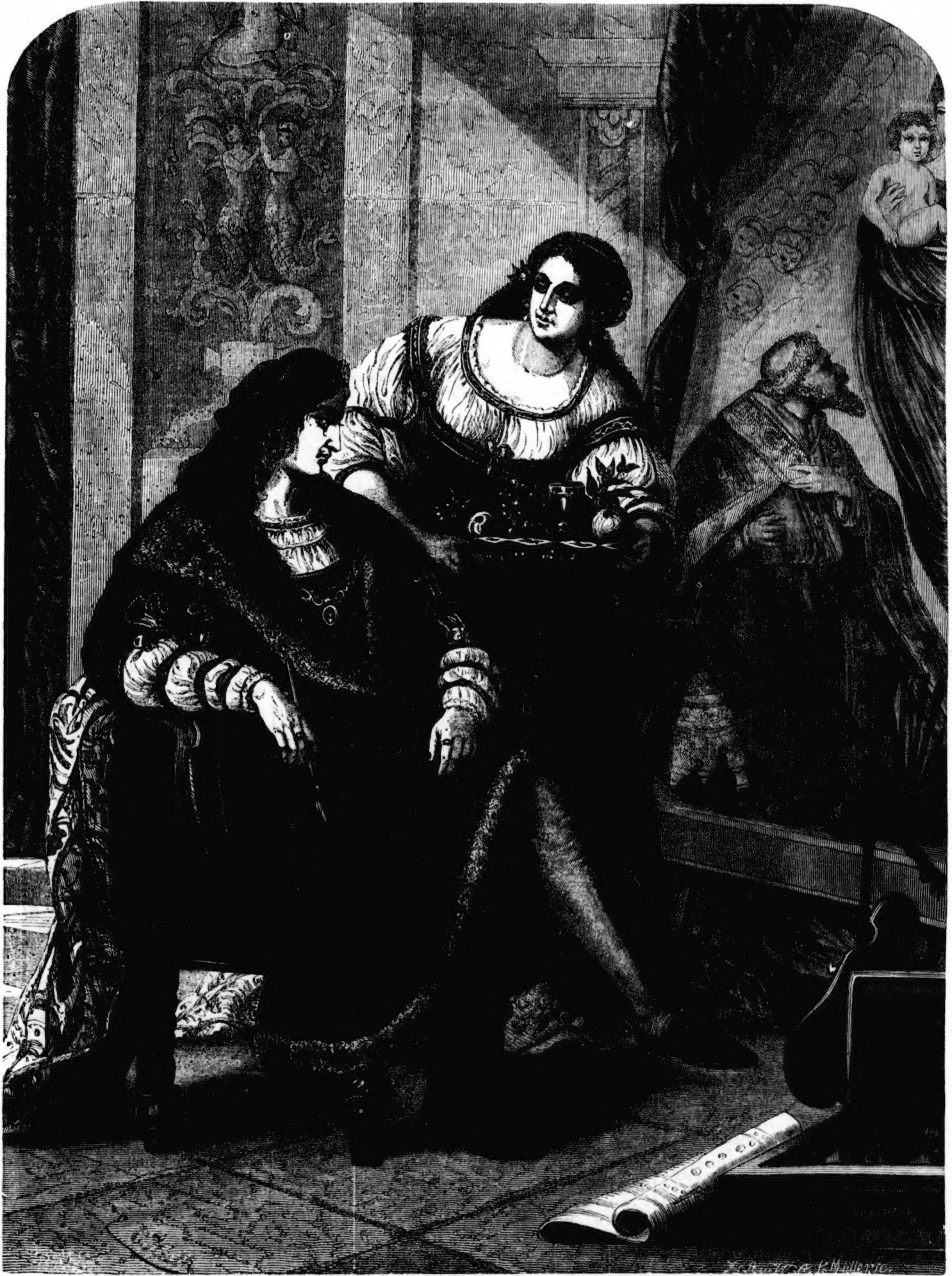
"NOT UP TO TRAP."—(PICTURE BY C. F. DEIKER.)

"NOT UP TO TRAP."

To begin with, the picture from which our Illustration is taken has not appeared in any English gallery. Even in these days, when the noble sport of fox-hunting is believed to be suffering deep declension, such a representation would surely excite dislike, if it did not provoke deep mutterings of disdain, in any gallery of the season. What! when the breed of foxes is so small, and there is such scarcity of the "vermin" that we actually have to import cubs from abroad and to stock one cover from another, shall we hang up a picture which exhibits, in all its glaring deformity, the immoral practice of more favoured foreigners? No, no! let us adopt the "battue" from Germany by all

means. Let us go out for a day's sport by having the game driven into a comfortable corner within a wire fence or some other inclosure, and then go in for file-firing and slaughter as many head as a poulterer would stock his shop with on market morning; but pray let us draw the line at foxes. There may be something manly in standing on a nice dry place, with the last fashionable get up of shooting-costume, and blazing away right and left, with a skilful attendant to load and hand the guns as the crowded birds flutter in a heap under our experienced hands; but for a couple of countryside fellows, woodmen or rough farming hinds, to make a spring to trap Reynard, because forsooth he robs their henroost and makes havoc in their poultry-yard, is a little too much. Just

imagine, too, those triangular perches, each with its dead jay or blackbird for bait. One might almost think the fellows were sneaking behind there with their guns in the expectation of some other plump feathered game being attracted by the decoys, and so made an easy mark; but it is worse than that. To an unbreakfasted fox even a thrush or a magpie might be a tempting snack, and it seems as though there was something attractive to Old Artful in taking an upward leap, or standing on his tail to reach his luncheon from a perch. These rascals know that; and so presently, with an eager, green twinkle of the eye, a twitching nose, and a ready tongue, Reynard will bound, head foremost and paws protruding, to that triangular



"RAPHAEL AND THE FORNARINA."

swing. Then straight into his grinning jaws will go the charge of slugs, or more likely into his chest, and off will come his skin and his brush. It is a dreadfully barbarous notion, and, perhaps, even to publish such a picture may be making known a bad example; but still, with the pigeon clubs and the battue, we may be safe from the unmanly innovation of trapping or shooting foxes, even though they be the half-grown cubs imported from Thuringian forests. There is one reflection, however, which must occur here. In those same forests it is necessary that they should be snared; or how are we to keep up our supply here? As it is, we can only just contrive to obtain a few good runs in the hunting season; and some of the best covers in the country are said to want replenishing; so let us hope, after all, that the unambitious peasants of

those remote wilds may be able still to construct skilfully devised stirrup-traps which will catch Reynard alive.

"RAPHAEL AND THE FORNARINA."

THESE are artistic times. We have exhibitions of pictures by the old masters, and numerous—we might almost say numberless—galleries of modern paintings at each season of the year, and yet there are a few great names which represent to us all that is most noble and most glorious in the world of art.

Among them is that of Raphael—or, as it is now the mode to call him, in the Italian fashion, Raffaello Sanzio—the great pupil

of Perugino, the student of Florence, the protégé of Julius II. and Leo X. Three centuries and a half have passed since that life, so short, yet so distinguished by the power, the number, and the grandeur of its work, came to an end; and the name of the painter is still a household word among us. We know him only by his works; few of us can call his appearance to our imagination, still less that of the companion, friend, or (as some say) mistress, whose lineaments may appear in some of his sublime pictures, but whose relation to his serene life and history is one of art only. "The Fornarina" might be little more than an artist's dream, but that there is good reason for knowing that she lived and loved, and so was a reality, which artists have ever since believed in.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 403.

PETITIONING—ITS HISTORY.

"The right of petitioning the Crown and Parliament," says Sir Erskine May, "for redress of grievances is acknowledged to be a fundamental principle of the Constitution, and has been uninterruptedly exercised from early times. Before the constitution of Parliament had assumed its present form, and while its judicial and legislative functions were ill-defined, petitions were presented to the Crown and to Great Councils of the Realm for the redress of grievances which were beyond the jurisdiction of the common law." In process of time these Great Councils crystallised, and were consolidated into a Parliament—consisting, first, only of Lords; then of Lords and Commons, sitting in one chamber; and, at last, of Lords and Commons separated into two chambers, as we have them now. When Lords and Commons sat in one chamber, petitions were presented to the High Court of Parliament. After the Lords and Commons were separated, the petitioners addressed themselves to each Chamber, as modern petitioners do. In early times the petitions were, with few exceptions, for the redress of private wrongs, and the mode of receiving and trying them was judicial rather than legislative. Receivers and tryers were appointed, and proclamations were made inviting all people to resort to them, the said receivers and tryers. Parliament was in those days, before our law courts were properly organised, itself a law court. Indeed, long after our courts of law were organised Parliament considered and redressed private grievances. During the Commonwealth, as all readers of history must remember, both Houses had their Special Committees of Grievances to consider and redress private wrongs. Petitions for or against measures of public policy were not known for many centuries after the establishment of Parliament. But in course of time the consideration of private wrongs was relegated to the courts; and after the Revolution of 1688 the present practice of petitioning in respect of general measures of public policy was gradually introduced. We may, though, mention, as a curiosity, that in the House of Lords receivers and tryers of petitions are still appointed at the opening of every new Parliament, in old Norman French, just as they were five hundred years ago. Of course these receivers and tryers have nothing to do; the form is kept up, we suppose, simply as a memorial of ancient times—preserved for the same reason that antiquaries preserve ancient armour, crossbows, &c. It would not, though, be correct to say that Parliament never now considers or redresses private grievances. There are some grievances, even now, which courts of law cannot consider, and such are not infrequently brought before Parliament and redressed. Thus the House of Commons, upon petition presented, awarded a sum of money to a Mr. Archer for the invention of a machine to perforate postage-stamps, which the Post Office had appropriated to its use. The House also considered the grievance of a solicitor named Barber, who had been wrongfully convicted of forgery, and had been transported for the same. To him the House, after inquiry had been made by a Secret Committee, awarded, if we recollect rightly, £4000. More than once, too, Indian Princes have brought their wrongs before Parliament and got redress; and no longer ago than the 12th of this month Mr. Robert Fowler brought before the House a motion that a Select Committee be appointed to consider certain alleged wrongs done in India to one Nawab Tonk. The House, though, did not then and there appoint the Committee, but adjourned the debate until Sir Stafford Northcote, who was Secretary of State for India when the proceedings complained of occurred, shall have returned from the United States. Parliament, then, is still a high court, and can and does occasionally take cognisance of grievances which the courts of law cannot redress; but only such. Of grievances which the Judiciary has the power to consider the House will not take cognisance.

ITS MODERN PRACTICE.

Such is the history of the right of petitioning. We will now say something about petitioning in these modern days. The House of Commons has lately been flooded with petitions. Since the days when all England went mad about Papal aggression we have had no such inundation. Immediately after Mr. Bruce had introduced and explained his ill-starred Licensing Bill, petitions against it began to flow in. At first only like a rivulet; but every succeeding day the stream swelled, and at last, as we have said, the House was flooded. In the cloak-room, which is the place where petitions sent by post or rail are deposited at times, there were hundreds. The tables groaned under them; the floor was cumbered by them; they were of all sizes, from the small parochial petitions up to those from our great towns, some of which were monsters; that from Manchester, for example, which was as big as a garden-roller and weighed a hundred weight and a half: an enthusiastic "Wittler" told us that this was a mile long. This statement, though, after measuring it with our not-inexperienced eye, we had to reject as a fable. Seventeen hundred and sixty sheets of paper each a yard long! It is impossible! "How many signatures are there?" we asked. "80,000," was the answer. "Pooh! 1760 sheets, each a yard long, at the rate of 200 signatures to the sheet—which is a moderate computation—would contain 350,000 names. Your petition is not above 400 yards long—I doubt whether it is that." Exit "Wittler," crestfallen. Curious is this propensity to exaggerate numbers and size. We all have it, more or less. If a building is said to hold 5000 people, write down 3000. If you hear that a man has died worth two millions, subtract half. Of course when Mr. Bruce withdrew his bill the flood gradually subsided. But before the stream had ceased to flow another set in from quite a different quarter—to wit, the stream of petitions in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's "Permissive Prohibitory Liquor Bill." Strong was the current of the prohibitory liquor petitions, but certainly not so strong nor so long continued as the current of liquor petitions. It is worthy of note that along with the petitions in favour of Sir Wilfrid's bill there rolled in a huge petition against it. This was from Derby. It was signed, or, let us say, said to be signed, by 40,000 people, and was appropriately presented by the member for Derby, the great brewer at Burton. The temperance petitions, we noticed, were more neatly got up than those of the other faction. Many of them were wound on rollers, with turned knobs at the end; and one monster petition came to us on a sort of windlass, with polished mahogany supporters.

WHAT BECOMES OF THE PETITIONS.

And, now, what is done with these petitions? Are they all presented in proper form? Does the member having charge of a petition rise in his place and say, "Petition, Sir, from such or such a place, for or against such or such a bill?" &c. Formerly, all petitions were presented in this formal manner. Further, until the year 1843, a member who had a petition to present might make a speech upon the subject-matter of the petition; whereupon a debate would often ensue. But in the year named this privilege was taken away. Subsequently, the number of petitions every year increasing, a still more summary plan of presenting them gradually came to be adopted, and is now largely practised. The plan is this. A member having petitions to present writes out a list of them to be sent up to the Reporters' Gallery, and then shoves them into the petition-bag, which, open-mouthed, hangs on the side of the table. This is a capital invention; it answers all purposes, and saves a world of time. The presentation of the petitions is reported in the papers, and is recorded in the votes by the examiners in the Journal Office, who overhaul the bags. What becomes of all these petitions? They are referred to "the Committee on Public Petitions," under whose direction they are classified and analysed. Twice a week the Committee prints reports, and there you will find the petitions are classified, and not only the name of each petition, but the number of signatures thereto, the general object of every petition, and the total number of petitions and signatures in reference to each subject set forth. In short, at any moment you can see, if you care to read these reports, the state of the battle of petitions: how many petitions, and how many

signatures for and how many against a measure in which you are interested. Now comes the final question: Do these petitions much affect the decisions of the House? To which we answer, Not now. The House has come to know how these petitions are got up, and to be aware that a small, active, well-organised minority can at any time flood the House with petitions, and show a strength of numbers far beyond their real strength in the country. Moreover, it is pretty well known than many of these petitions are not honest petitions. Many of the signatures thereto, we suspect, are forgeries, or have been obtained on false pretences. And here we leave the matter.

SIGNS OF WAR.

On Tuesday, the 16th, Mr. Disraeli gave notice to her Majesty's Government that, on going into Committee on the Customs and Income Tax Bill, he should formally call the attention of the House to the financial policy of her Majesty's Government; and that, as it was possible that the remarks which he should feel it his duty to make might lead to a discussion—possibly, indeed, to something more important—he asked the Leader of the House to make an arrangement which would ensure a free and fair discussion of the subject. It had been arranged that the first order on the following Thursday should be the Army Bill; but Mr. Gladstone, taking this declaration as a challenge, promptly replied that the Customs and Income Tax Bill should stand first. Of course, if the Leader of the Opposition means fighting, courtesy requires that everything shall give way to that. The notice which Mr. Disraeli placed upon the paper was not in itself threatening. He would merely "call attention." There was no notice of an amendment. But those words in his speech, "something more important," looked ominous; and so, when Thursday came, the House was crowded. "What will Dizzy do? Does he mean fighting?" were questions asked over and over again by the Liberals as they arrived. To these queries the Liberal whips could give no satisfactory answer. There were the threatening words; and, moreover, it was known that the Conservative whip had been urgent, and, as one could see at a glance, effective. In truth, there were all the signs of a battle toward.

MR. DISRAELI'S SPEECH.

The leader of the Opposition rose about five o'clock, and at his rising the noisy House hushed into silence and expectancy. The strangers in the gallery thought they were in luck, and expected a great treat. But, alas! they were disappointed. They confidently hoped to hear a grand display of oratory; a speech sparkling with wit and humour, bristling with happy hits and sharp sarcasm, setting the House in a roar of cheers and laughter. They heard a long, dull, wearisome harangue on finance. A gentleman accustomed to visit the gallery said, when he came down, "Disraeli was not at all himself to-night; I never knew him so dull." And a Lancashire manufacturer, "a Bolton chap," we fancy, exclaimed, "If that's yer Disraeli, I think nowt of him." Very surprising to the strangers was this, but not to us. The truth is, Disraeli is never really himself at this early hour. The affatus seldom comes to him until the midnight hour is drawing on. Then, think of his subject. Finance! A man may be a brilliant financier, but not a brilliant expounder of finance. Gladstone has often proved himself to be both; Disraeli is neither. The finance region is oppressive to him. Imagination, fancy, poetry, die within him when he enters there. Then, think how this Budget, which he had to discuss, had been already thrashed out to the last grain—bought to mere bran—and had become "weary, stale, flat, and unprofitable;" dead, in short, beyond the power of even Genius to resuscitate. After Mr. Disraeli had spoken, a debate arose, which dragged on for several hours, and then ended in nothing; but three hours were wasted, and thus the "masterly policy of obstruction" of the military people to the Army Bill was aided. Was this the object of the leader of the Opposition? We cannot tell. Mr. Disraeli is, and ever was, an inscrutable man.

"THE MASTERLY POLICY OF OBSTRUCTION."

On Monday the Army Bill, still in Committee, was the business of the night. The Government hoped to get clause 2 passed early, and further progress made that night; but again the honourable and gallant colonels and captains developed their masterly policy. It was decided by them in secret conference that this night, too, should be wasted in talk, and arrangements were made accordingly. Sir George Jenkinson, the member for North Wiltshire, was to interpose an amendment not upon the paper, and waste the time before dinner. Then, that amendment rejected, Lord Garlies was to take up the strain upon the clause itself, and with help, if needed, keep the talk going during dinner-time. But his Lordship needed little or no help; he was equal to the occasion. Without anything to say, he talked for an hour and a half by the clock. As the Conservative policy had come to be well known, the members, almost to a man, went away. At half-past eight there were on the Liberal side only two members—to wit, Captain Vivian, Under Secretary for War, and young Mr. Gladstone, who stopped to keep guard as sentinels. On the Conservative side there were, besides Lord Garlies, five members. These stayed to continue the talk if his Lordship should break down. "Why, then, did not the Conservatives count out?" Because it was known that an army of reserve was in the dining-room, ready to rush up at the ring of the bell; and so the time was wasted—deliberately wasted—and of malice aforethought; and thus was "speech, one of God's divinest gifts," abused and murdered. It was well said that "such conduct as this throws discredit upon Parliamentary institutions and renders Constitutional government impossible."

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, MAY 19.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Earl RUSSELL postponed until Monday, June 12, his motion relating to the Treaty of Washington. The Bank Holidays Bill, the Anatomy Act (1832) Amendment Bill, and the Trades Unions Bills were read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Commons, at their morning sitting, read the third time and passed the Customs and Income Tax Bill.

The adjourned debate on the Westmeath Crime and Outrages Bill was then resumed and concluded. It was followed by two divisions, which resulted in the defeat by 340 to 12 of The O'Connor Don's amendment to expunge that part of the bill which continues the Peace Preservation Act of last year, and in the second reading of the bill being carried by 293 to 11. The bill was then ordered to be committed on Tuesday.

At the evening sitting Mr. CHADWICK moved for the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the mode of assessing the income and property tax, its incidence and collection. After a debate, the motion was rejected by a majority of 9—56 to 47.

MONDAY, MAY 22.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House read the third time and passed the Consolidated Fund (£7,000,000) Bill, the Customs and Income Tax Bill, and the Judgments (Ireland) Bill; passed the Leeward Islands Bill through Committee, and read the Postage Bill and the Lunatics (Scotland) Bill the second time.

In the course of a brief discussion on the Washington Treaty, Lord GRANVILLE left it to be inferred that that document was not likely to be ratified before June 12, on which day Lord Russell is to bring forward his motion on the subject.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The HOME SECRETARY announced that his new measure relating to the licensing system will suspend the issue of licenses, provide facilities for the future transfer of licenses, so as to prevent inconvenience, and regulate their distribution in accordance with the wants of the population.

Mr. C. FORTESCUE stated that he had prepared a bill directed mainly to inquiry into railway accidents; and Mr. GLADSTONE gave notice that he would next day move that the House, at its rising, should adjourn over the Derby Day.

The House then, in Committee, once more resumed the consideration of the Army Regulation Bill, the second clause of which, providing for the abolition of purchase, was passed (after a tedious and dull debate, to nearly empty benches for a considerable time) by a majority of 59—208 to 169.

TUESDAY, MAY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House gave a second reading to the Canada Bill, the object of which is to empower the Parliament of the Dominion to carve out provinces from territory that had been annexed, but had not yet come under the new administration. Their Lordships also passed the Postage Bill through Committee, and read the third time and passed the Leeward Islands Bill and the Kewlme Rectory Bill.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

The Commons devoted a morning sitting to the consideration of the Lords' amendments to the University Tests Bill, the principal of which were, on the motion of Mr. GLADSTONE, rejected, and the bill was sent back to their Lordships for reconsideration.

In the evening the House was occupied with a discussion raised by Mr. KAY-SHUTTLEWORTH on the water supply of the metropolis.

THURSDAY, MAY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Their Lordships met for the purpose of a Royal Commission, which was constituted by the Lord Chancellor, Viscount Sydney, and Viscount Eversley. The Royal assent was then given to the following bills, viz.:—The Consolidated Fund (£7,000,000) Bill, Customs and Income Tax Bill, Fairs Bill; Public Parks, &c. (Land) Bill; County Property Bill; Metropolitan Poor Act (1867) Amendment Bill, Lunacy Regulation (Ireland) Bill, County Justices Qualification Amendment Bill, Workshops Regulation Act (1867) Amendment Bill, Anatomy Act (1832) Amendment Bill, Bank Holidays Bill, City of London Court Bill, and a large number of private bills.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE TREATY WITH AMERICA.

Mr. GLADSTONE, replying to a question from Mr. Rylands, said the treaty with the American Government had that day been presented to Parliament, and it was now in his power to take any opportunity of discussing it. He would, however, mention that the process of ratification had been completed on the other side of the Atlantic by a very large majority.

THE STATE OF PARIS.

Sir R. PEEL, in reference to the appalling events taking place at Paris at this moment, wished to ask the First Lord of the Treasury whether the present opportunity would not be a convenient one for the House to express its sympathy with France. That unhappy country had been trodden down by an enemy; but it had now succumbed in a manner which no one could have anticipated.

Mr. B. COCHRANE inquired whether any official information had been received respecting the terrible events now going on in Paris.

Mr. GLADSTONE, in replying to the latter question, said that he had hoped that official intelligence would have been received before the House met; but the Government had had no telegrams relating to the ruin that was being wrought in Paris. He could not wonder, considering that the fighting had not yet terminated, that the representatives of the British Government should have been unwilling to send any intelligence until they could be quite certain of its accuracy; and, as far as he was informed from the latest unofficial telegrams, they left, he thought, some room for hope that there had been some degree of exaggeration, although there was no room for hope that very great disasters had not occurred. With respect to the question of the Right Hon. Baronet, he could not wonder that, under the impressions created by events so entirely without any real precedent in history, he should have been driven to any mode of expressing the emotion which he felt in common with the whole House. He (Mr. Gladstone) would not attempt to characterise by any epithet the circumstances of which they had partial knowledge; for there were no epithets which could adequately describe them, or give a satisfactory expression to the feelings with which every man's mind and heart must be oppressed. He did not see, however, in what manner the House could advantageously or usefully express their feelings; but he was sure that, if any hon. member could see such means of expression as could convey the slightest comfort or solace, he would be most forward to avail himself of it.

ARMY REGULATION BILL.

The House soon afterwards, in Committee, resumed the consideration of the Army Regulation Bill, the opposition to many of its clauses being as determined as ever.

APPROXIMATE RESULTS OF THE CENSUS.

We will begin with the large towns, and supply a few old figures to compare with the new:—

	1851.	POPULATION IN 1861.	1871.
Liverpool ..	375,955	443,834	488,845
Manchester ..	316,213	357,974	379,295
Salford ..	85,108	101,367	124,825
Birmingham ..	232,841	296,076	342,565
Ashton ..	66,862	94,995	139,986
Sheffield ..	135,310	186,178	249,405
Leeds ..	172,270	207,140	259,200
Hull ..	84,690	97,661	118,130
Newcastle-on-Tyne ..	87,784	109,108	127,618
Bradford ..	103,778	106,218	145,716
Sunderland ..	67,394	90,704	111,910
Bristol ..	137,328	154,495	181,742
Wolverhampton ..	49,885	60,860	68,235
Norwich ..	68,195	74,865	80,382
Leicester ..	60,584	68,275	95,193
Nottingham ..	57,407	74,987	86,619
Plymouth ..	52,221	59,500	66,500
Brighton ..	69,673	77,693	90,013
Oldham ..	72,357	72,334	82,623
Preston ..	69,542	82,888	85,408
Bolton ..	61,171	70,395	82,888
Dudley ..	37,962	44,975	48,765
Blackburn ..	46,536	63,126	82,926
Stourbridge ..	7,847	68,717	74,619
Warrington ..	23,363	39,739	50,064

Between the smaller of these well-populated English towns and some others which might have been added there is not much difference, and perhaps we have drawn the line arbitrarily. They are not, however, selected with a purpose. We take a quarter of a hundred from the top of the list, and see what facts they will yield. Of course, there is a considerable increase of population. Only a blight falling upon houses and shops, and factories and people, can prevent large towns from growing larger in a country like this. The one exception in the twenty-five is the case of Dudley, which is reported to be overdone with rating. We question the validity of the defence. Local rates, if the money collected is spent judiciously among the ratepayers, are not so injurious as many economists would have us believe. Dudley must give a better account of herself. It is not enough, however, to know that the number of inhabitants of these large towns increases upon the whole. We must inquire into the rate of progress. For this purpose the figures must be added up, as follows:—

	1851.	1861.	1871.
Totals of the twenty-five towns ..	2,542,266	3,104,104	3,649,412

These are large figures, and important ones. They show, in the first place, that in twenty years a town population of two millions and a half has increased to more than three millions and a half—"Gentleman's Magazine" for June.

The population of London enumerated as living at midnight on Sunday, April 2, was 3,251,904, an increase of 447,815 in ten years. The houses occupied by this enormous mass of people stretch along the banks of the Thames from Woolwich up to Hammer-smith, and across its stream from Norwood to Hampstead, over 122 square miles. On an average there are 2669 persons to a square mile.

ANNUAL EXCURSION OF METROPOLITAN WORKMEN'S CLUBS.—Earl Cowper has most kindly authorised the Workmen's Club and Institute Union to arrange for the annual gathering of the members of their affiliated institutions in London at the beautiful park of Panshanger, an announcement which will be received with general satisfaction and grateful acknowledgment by all who shared in a similar privilege granted last year by the Marquis of Salisbury, and in the previous year by the Earl of Portmouth. The excursion will take place in August.

BABY-FARMING.—The Select Committee of the House of Commons upon baby-farming met for the first time on Monday—Mr. Walpole in the chair. Mr. Ernest Hart and Dr. Withshire were amongst the witnesses examined. Mr. Hart stated that the proportion of the mortality of illegitimate children was excessively large; and in some parts of the country, and even in districts of London, illegitimate children less than a year old had no chance of life. So much was the drugging of children practised that in most cases where infants were put out temporarily the charge was less by 6d. per week if the mother provided the opiate.

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SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1871.

MR. HUGHES AND SIR JOHN LUBBOCK.

THERE is no natural reason why the House of Commons should adjourn from Tuesday to Thursday in the Derby week. The excuse is custom, and the fact that it would be difficult to get a House together upon the Wednesday. But, on the other hand, there is no reason for the rather priggish assault of Mr. T. Hughes upon an old-fashioned trick of getting a holiday by a side-wind. There is something unpleasantly high-and-dry about the later movements of the hon. gentleman's mind. His arbitrary Sunday Bill is gone to limbo; but the public will not forget it. Nor will they forget his quaint proposal that public-houses should be entirely closed while Parliamentary elections were going on. That the Legislature should arrive at its holidays by a direct road in preference to an indirect, is no doubt well; but there is something that looks harsh in driving the principle home. We are "poor creatures," the best of us; and to give up for ever the practice of accepting as reasons matters which are no reasons at all, and occasionally doing things with a good-humoured wink, is a notion which might seem to commend itself specially to a much less genial school than that to which the author of "Tom Brown's School-days" is or was supposed to be affiliated. We do not quarrel with Mr. Hughes's intention of opposing any future motion for an adjournment, if he should be in the House; but he might have taken the matter up with a little more good humour and a little more of that playful regard which seems natural to a cultivated Englishman for a general holiday, which, after all, has its good points.

Before leaving this part of the subject, we may say that the proposal for a testimonial to Sir John Lubbock for his services in the cause of fixed and authorised public holidays is one of the most reasonable that could be conceived. We only hope that the testimonial will be discreetly got up—that it will be purely honorary, and that it will be very variously contributed to.

Our reasons for expressing this last wish are not far to seek. Sir John Lubbock has done much to make a strictly public and social question of one which is, on the whole, in a chaotic condition. Our own grand weekly holiday we have become possessed of by a series of flukes, and the public in general have no respite from business, except such as are of ecclesiastical origin—being either fast-days, like Good Friday, or feast-days, like Easter, Christmas, and Whitsun Monday. An attempt is being made to restore Ascension Day to its former place in the red-letter catalogue; but not much is to be hoped from that movement. Now, though clerks in public offices may gladly and very wisely take the good the gods provide them, is there any reason why the world at large should not take the regulation of its holidays into its own hands, without regard to the ecclesiastical calendar or the birthdays of exalted personages? The matter is one in which legislation is extremely simple, so long as the restrictive enactments have regard to voluntary action only. If you say that nobody shall work on a given day or within given hours, you immediately run your head against difficulties. But if—which is all you are entitled to do—you enact that no person shall be compellable to do certain things within certain hours, you create no difficulty which, your intention once known, cannot be provided for—either by arrangement among the persons concerned or by provisos which interfere with no principle. The distinction is one which commends itself to the attention of those "Liberals" who have never dug to the foundation of their political creed.

While we should be glad to see the House of Commons take no notice of the Derby Day, we should be still more glad to see the principles of general and especially of religious freedom better understood. We entirely agree with Mr. Bee Wright, the person who goes about summoning small offenders against an almost obsolete statute, that it is highly desirable the Sunday should be treated as a day of rest; and it is quite conceivable that legislation to prevent any public annoyance which arose from trading on that day might be justified. But on what principle? On that of the convenience and well-being of the majority. As nobody can plead a voice of conscience commanding him to sell cigars or periwinkles on Sunday, and as in civil society we must give and take in such matters, Sunday legislation is within the province of Parliament. But Mr. Wright—as might have been expected from his whole procedure—openly avows the principle of religious persecution as his basis of action. He writes to a contemporary;—"We have the Bible; and in the matter of Sunday trading we have no right to use our own judgment." Did Mr. Wright ever hear of the Jews, the Seventh-Day Baptists, and religious sects who think it an offence against Heaven to observe one day more

than another? To deal with these people or with any others penally because of Mr. Wright's reading of the Bible, and on the ground that "we have no right to use our own judgment," is religious persecution as gross as any that ever used the rack or the stake. Suppose a recusant disregarded a fine or could not pay it—then comes imprisonment. He might practically be imprisoned for life indeed. If imprisonment, why not whipping, branding, ear-lobbing, hanging? It is not to Mr. Wright or his friends and co-adjutors that we should ever dream of appealing in terms of logic, for you cannot make a silken purse out of a sow's ear; but there must be persons capable of understanding that the doctrine that the State is to enforce anything penally because it is in the Bible is the doctrine of persecution stark naked, and that every man who preaches it is a public enemy.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY was celebrated last Saturday in the customary manner, though Wednesday was the real anniversary of her Majesty's birth.

THE PRINCE OF WALES has taken Titniss Park, at Sunninghill, for Ascot race week. The Prince and Princess are expected to arrive on June 3.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES and the Royal children arrived in London last Saturday afternoon from Sandringham. The Princess is said to have quite recovered her health.

THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH, who arrived at Plymouth on Friday week, has gone to Balmoral, on a visit to her Majesty.

THE EMPRESS OF RUSSIA arrived in Berlin last Saturday evening, and was received by the Emperor of Germany and the Crown Prince.

THE HEALTH OF THE DUKE OF COBURG has so improved that no further bulletins will be issued.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY arrived at Stone House, Broadstairs, last Saturday, from Dover; and on Monday his Grace was able to take part in the confirmation of a large number of candidates at St. George's Church, Ramsgate, assisted by his suffragan, Dr. PARRY.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL C. C. CHESNEY, Royal Engineers, has been commissioned to start on a tour to report on various Continental armies, especially the Swiss.

MR. AUBERON HERBERT, M.P., is going to marry Lady Florence Cowper, a sister of Lord Cowper.

SIR WATKIN WILLIAMS WYNN, M.P., was on Monday elected president of the Royal Agricultural Society for 1872. The meeting of the society in that year will be at Cardiff.

THE FIRST FLOWER SHOW for the season at the Crystal Palace was held last Saturday. The number of visitors was over 15,000, and the display of flowers excellent.

THE CAMBRIDGE CHANCELLOR'S GOLD MEDAL for the best English poem in heroic verse has been this year conferred on Mr. H. E. Madden, Trinity Hall—subject, "Sedan." The Porson Prize has been awarded to Mr. Herbert Rees Phillips, non-collegiate student.

A MONSTER LAW SUIT is now in progress in the United States. It has reference to some land in San Francisco, and according to the United States Jurist, the defendants exceed 1000 in number, and 270 lawyers are engaged in it.

THE NUMBER OF VISITORS to the Exhibition last week was as follows:—Season-tickets, 5188; on payment of 2s. 6d., 3157; on payment of 1s., 47,208; total, 55,553.

THE STEAM-SHIP PARAGUAY, trading between New York and London, came into collision, last Saturday night, with a screw-steamer, said to be the T. W. Webb, off Dungeness. The latter foundered within five minutes, and thirteen out of a crew of twenty perished.

A MAN NAMED DURNFORD has given himself up to the police at Birmingham, stating that he was the burglar in company with Campbell and Gairbairn on the occasion of Mr. Galloway's murder at Stratford.

AT THE SPECIAL SESSIONS just held for the barony of Brawney, formerly the most lawless district of Westmeath, there were only two applications for compensation for malicious injuries, both of which were refused.

THE CASE OF MR. W. L. MAITLAND, formerly lessee of the Lyceum, was before the Court of Bankruptcy on Tuesday. The debts are £8779, and there are no assets. A composition of 1s. in the pound has been offered, and the creditors have agreed to accept it.

A PORTION OF THE TOWN OF BRADFORD, in Canada, has been burnt down.

THE DEAN OF WESTMINSTER preached a funeral sermon for Sir John Herschel in Westminster Abbey, on Sunday afternoon, before a large congregation. He took his text from the first chapter of Genesis, the 14th and following verses:—"And God said, Let there be light," &c. Spohr's quartet and chorus, "Blest are the departed," was sung before the sermon; and at the close of the service the Dead March in "Saul" was played by the assistant organist, Mr. Jekyll.

THE LATE MR. EDWARD COLYER has left by will £500 New Three per Cent Annuities to the Printers' Pension, Almshouse, and Orphan Asylum Corporation, "to be applied towards carrying on the benevolent designs of the said charity, and to be placed to the Pension Fund of the said corporation under the style or title of the 'Colyer Pension,' for males only."

THE LONDON SCHOOL BOARD, on Wednesday, appointed a committee, on the motion of Professor Huxley, "to ascertain what is already known regarding the existence, circumstances, and present extent of encephalitis and bequest, &c., available for the purposes of the general and technical education of the people."

AS AN INSTANCE OF THE VALUE SET ON LAND IN TIPPERARY, it may be mentioned that a widow named Grace, who held a small farm of twelve acres from year to year, sold her goodwill for £200 to a farmer, who paid the money without hesitation, although warned by the landlord that the rent would be raised. He has since obtained a lease for thirty-one years.

THE MONT CENIS TUNNEL WORKS progress rapidly. Communication from end to end has now been open for some little time, but there are still about seventy metres of the tunnel to complete in the centre, and the permanent way to lay down. It is expected that the whole will be finished by the end of June.

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE TOTTENHAM DEACONESSSES' INSTITUTION, held last Saturday, Mr. Morley, M.P., who presided, gave £1000 towards the liquidation of the debt. Mr. John Morley, brother of the chairman, subscribed a similar amount.

THE TEXT OF THE BLACK SEA TREATY has been presented to Parliament. All the provisions have already been published. It will therefore suffice to say that the treaty contains nine articles, and annexed is the special convention entered into between the Emperor of Russia and the Sultan. The ratifications of the treaty were exchanged on the 15th inst., and the convention was signed on March 13.

BATTLES BRIDGE, near Maldon, fell on Tuesday, as a traction-engine was passing over it. The engine, with the driver and stoker, fell into the river beneath, but no life was lost. The driver was slightly injured in the knee, and the stoker was struck by one of the falling girders. He received a scalp wound, which, however, is not serious.

THE WHOLE OF THE BLOCK OF BUILDINGS comprising the telegraph establishment, the offices of Quartermaster-General, Brigade-Major, clerks, &c., at the Royal Artillery barracks, Woolwich, were discovered to be on fire at about three o'clock on Saturday morning, and were utterly destroyed. Nothing is known as to the origin of the fire.

A NEWLY-LAUNCHED IRON STEAMER, called William III., belonging to the Netherlands Steam Navigation Company, which left Dieppe on Thursday night week, at ten p.m., for Batavia, on her first voyage, took fire. She was grounded on a bank outside Portsmouth, and burnt down to the water's edge. The crew and passengers were all saved.

A LARGE AND CONVENIENT SCHOOL-ROOM AND PLAY-GROUND have just been added to the Home for Boys not Convicted of Crime, Regent's Park-road. The school-room is called the Truro-Room, in recognition of the valuable aid which the managers have received from the trustees of the will of the late Lady Truro. This home has now been in existence fourteen years, and contains 110 boys, a large proportion of whom have been sent as vagrants by magistrates. It ranks among the most useful and most economically-conducted institutions in London.

AN IRISH GRIEVANCE of a somewhat novel character cropped up on Tuesday in the Select Committee on Union Rating, of which Lord Hartington is chairman. Several witnesses connected with the administration of poor relief in Ireland complained of the hardship of the English law of removal, under which Irish-born poor are removed from England and Scotland, while there was no analogous power in the Irish law to send English and Scotch paupers home.

CRUISE OF THE GALATEA.

THE Galatea, 26, screw frigate, Captain his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, which has just returned to England, was last commissioned at Devonport in January, 1867, and left Plymouth in the following month. She successively visited Lisbon, Gibraltar, Malta, Marseilles, Madeira, Rio, Villeguion, Simon's Bay, Cape of Good Hope, Victoria, Glenelg, Adelaide, Melbourne, and Sydney, when his Royal Highness's journey was suddenly and unexpectedly interrupted by the attempt on his life by the Fenian O'Farrell. The Galatea returned to England early in July, 1868, at the request of the Government, and again left England on Nov. 7, arriving at Madeira on the 14th, and St. Vincent on the 22nd, at six p.m. She arrived in Simon's Bay on the afternoon of Christmas Day. On the day after his arrival the Duke drove to Cape Town to visit the Governor, and returned to Simon's Bay the same afternoon, calling en route upon several old friends. On Dec. 27 he was on board his ship, on the 28th and 29th he was up in town and at Government House, and on the night of the 30th he was entertained there at a ball given by his Excellency the Governor. On the evening of the 31st he was entertained at a soirée musicale given by Mr. P. G. Van der Byl, at Rondebosch, and on New Year's night a brilliant ball was given in his honour by the 99th Regiment. On the following day he inspected the progress of the breakwater works in Table Bay, and afterwards was present at a cricket-match at Wynberg, between the military and the civilians. On the morning of Jan. 3 he returned to his ship in Simon's Bay, and on the evening of the next day a farewell ball was given to his Royal Highness by Commodore Randolph, at Simon's Town. The Galatea left Simon's Bay Jan. 6, 1869, arrived at Melbourne Feb. 22, was at Adelaide March 1, and left Melbourne March 8, arriving off Sydney Heads on the morning of the 11th. His Royal Highness took part in some public ceremonies, one being, on March 27, the laying of the foundation of the monument to the memory of Captain Cook, the navigator. The Galatea left again on April 3, and arrived at Wellington on the 11th. On the following day his Royal Highness landed, and in the evening dined with the Governor. The next day he visited the Museum, and planted some trees in the Government domain; and, after next visiting Nelson, reached Lyttleton on the 22nd. He remained four days in Canterbury, and, after next visiting Dunedin, returned to Wellington on May 2. On the following day the Galatea left for Auckland, and on June 1 sailed for the Fiji Islands, but on the way encountered strong head winds, which blew her to the southward; then, getting a start, hove up for Otaheite, and anchored on the evening of the 6th. On the morning of the 7th the ship was surrounded by the natives, who, after pulling about in their large war canoes, gave three cheers for the Prince. They were afterwards allowed to go on board, and on the quarter-deck went through their war dances and sang several songs in their native tongue. On June 24 the Queen of Otaheite went on board, and was received with state honours, and on leaving received three cheers. The Galatea left Otaheite on July 2, crossed the line on the 7th, anchored in Cook's Bay in the Island of Hawaii on the 18th, and, after lying in the bay two days, left for Honolulu, arriving there on the 21st. She left Honolulu early in the following month and arrived at Nagasaki on Sept. 24. In Japan his Royal Highness was very favourably received, and was presented with an address from 260 British residents in Yokohama. He afterwards visited Hong-Kong, and left the Chinese capital on Nov. 11. He arrived at Calcutta on Dec. 22, and was received at Prinsep's Ghaut, nearly opposite Fort William, by a ringing cheer from the splendid crowd surrounding the Viceroy, who stood forward to receive the Duke. On the 26th the Viceroy attended Divine service on board the Galatea. The Bishop of Calcutta preached on the occasion, and on the 27th, at noon, his Royal Highness received his Excellency the Commander-in-Chief on board his vessel, and shortly afterwards the various chiefs in Calcutta also paid a visit to the frigate; and as each chief went on board he was received by the salute due to his rank, and on the Viceroy's approach the yards were manned and a Royal salute fired. On the drum beating to quarters there was a rush of princes, nobles, and officers to the gun-deck, and in 4½ min. from the first tap of the drum calling the men to the work every man was in his place and the frigate was ready for action. On the 28th the 11th Bengal Cavalry showed their skill in tent-pegging and Sikh games. On the 29th the troops paraded for a field-day, and in the evening his Royal Highness attended the conversation at the Townhall of the Mohammedan Literary Society, and wound up the day with a concert at Government House. At 9.30 p.m. a fancy-dress ball came off at Government House. On the evening of the 31st and on Jan. 4, 1870, his Royal Highness gave a ball on board the Galatea, to which 700 guests were invited. At Bombay his Royal Highness was received with as much distinction as marked his arrival at Calcutta, and on March 16 he laid the foundation-stone of the new Sailors' Home, his Excellency the Governor and his Highness the Guicowar being present on the occasion, as well as a large number of the principal inhabitants of Bombay. The Galatea sailed from Bombay on March 19 for Beypore, and left Madras on the 27th.

The Galatea reached Colombo on the forenoon of March 30, left Trincomalee May 5, anchored at Point de Galle on the 8th, and arrived at the Mauritius on the 21st. She left the Mauritius on June 3, was signalled off Cape Recife on the afternoon of the 18th, and arrived at Simon's Bay on the 21st. His Royal Highness was received with the utmost cordiality by all classes of the community, and passed the greater part of his time during his visit in the country shooting. On July 11 the Table Bay Docks were inaugurated, and a very large concourse of colonists assembled to witness the ceremony. He also presided at the annual meeting of the Sailors' Home. On the 14th the Galatea left Simon's Bay, and returned to Wellington, New Zealand, on Aug. 27. She arrived at Sydney on Sept. 15, and was placed in the graving-dock for the purpose of being overhauled, and on Nov. 14 sailed for Noumea. She next visited Auckland, and left that port on Jan. 16, 1871, arriving on Feb. 24 at the Falkland Islands, and, after remaining there seven days, sailed for Montevideo, where she arrived on March 12. The Duke landed on the morning of the 13th, and formally paid his respects to the President, General Don Lorenzo Battle, by whom, surrounded with the leading functionaries of the Government, he was received with all due ceremony. On the 15th he visited the cathedral, museum, &c., and was entertained at a banquet at the Consul's house. On the evening of the 16th he met the élite of the city and neighbourhood at a ball on a splendid scale, in the magnificent saloon of the Exchange, given by the British residents. On the 17th the Galatea again left Montevideo, and touched at Fayal for coals and provisions on May 4, and left next day for Plymouth, arriving in the Sound at 1.40 p.m. on the 19th.

MRS. FLORENCE DOWELL, an elderly lady, was, on Wednesday, knocked down by an express train and cut to pieces at the Twelve-Acre Field level crossing on the London and Brighton Railway.

THE PEACE SOCIETY.—The anniversary meeting of this society was held, on Tuesday evening, in Finsbury Chapel—Mr. Pease, M.P., in the chair. The chairman said the principles of the society were gaining ground in England, and he sincerely hoped international arbitration would be the future substitute for war. Sir Wilfrid Lawson, M.P., said he was surprised that during the horrid war between Germany and France writers in the press of both countries had been found to approve it. It was encouraging to see, however, that so many had stuck to the principles of peace. Mr. Richard, M.P., read the report, which stated that during the past year others than lecturers of the society had taken in hand the work of proclaiming the folly, the cruelty, the waste, and wickedness of war. Altogether the number of publications issued during the year had amounted to about 260,000 copies. The number of peace meetings held had been 370. The report concluded by referring to the very encouraging increase during the past year in the general interest in the subject of international arbitration as a future substitute for war, and made special allusion to the practical illustration afforded by the appointment and labours of the Anglo-American Joint High Commission. After addresses from a number of speakers, the report was adopted, and resolutions were agreed to pledging the meeting to further support the objects of the society. A vote of thanks to the chairman closed the proceedings.

PRINCE ARTHUR.

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCE ARTHUR, who, it will be recollected, completed his twenty-first year on the 1st inst., and has since been admitted a member of the Privy Council, has signified his intention of being present at the annual inspection of the Warspite training-ship, at Woolwich, on June 20. At the next meeting of the Court of Common Council of the city of London a proposition will be submitted that the Prince be invited to take upon himself the freedom of the City. The roll of freemen now includes the names of the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh. We regret to say that an accident, fortunately unattended with very serious consequences, happened to Prince Arthur on Friday night week. His Royal Highness was at Buckingham Palace, with the intention of attending the state ball, and was smoking a cigar after dinner in the billiard-room. This apartment has French casement windows, opening outwards. One of these windows had been left unfastened, and the Prince, who did not notice its condition, leant his shoulder against the centre of the frames. Yielding to his weight, the window flew open, and his Royal Highness, unable to recover his balance, fell to the ground beneath, a distance of between seven and eight feet. Assistance was immediately rendered by two policemen who were on duty in the palace; by Prince Christian, who was in the room, and by other gentlemen present; and the Prince, who was partially stunned, was removed to his apartments. Surgeons were speedily in attendance, and the result of their examination was that no serious injury was found to have been sustained. The bruises and shock, however, were sufficiently severe to prevent his Royal Highness from attending the ball and from appearing the next day at the military ceremony of "trooping the colours" in St. James's Park. The Prince has now almost entirely recovered from the effects of the fall.

THE VENDÔME COLUMN,
PARIS

We published in our last week's Number (see ILLUSTRATED TIMES, May 20, page 308) a full description and history of the famous column in the Place Vendôme, Paris, which was destroyed by order of the Commune as a protest against the military-glory



H.R.H. PRINCE ARTHUR.

sentiment it was thought to typify. It would seem, however, that the notions of the Communists on this point are not entertained even by the Republicans of Versailles, for in the National Assembly, on Monday, M. Jules Simon proposed a bill having for its object the reconstruction of the column and the restoration of the Expiatory Chapel erected to the memory of King Louis XVI. He proposed that the new column should be crowned with a statue of France. These propositions were received with acclamation; which was perhaps natural from Frenchmen, though to mere onlookers it seems a little out of place to talk of restoring a monument commemorating French victories immediately after a crushing French defeat. Surely M. Jules Simon and the Assembly can hardly consider the triumph of Versailles over Paris an event that ought to be commemorated in a national monument.

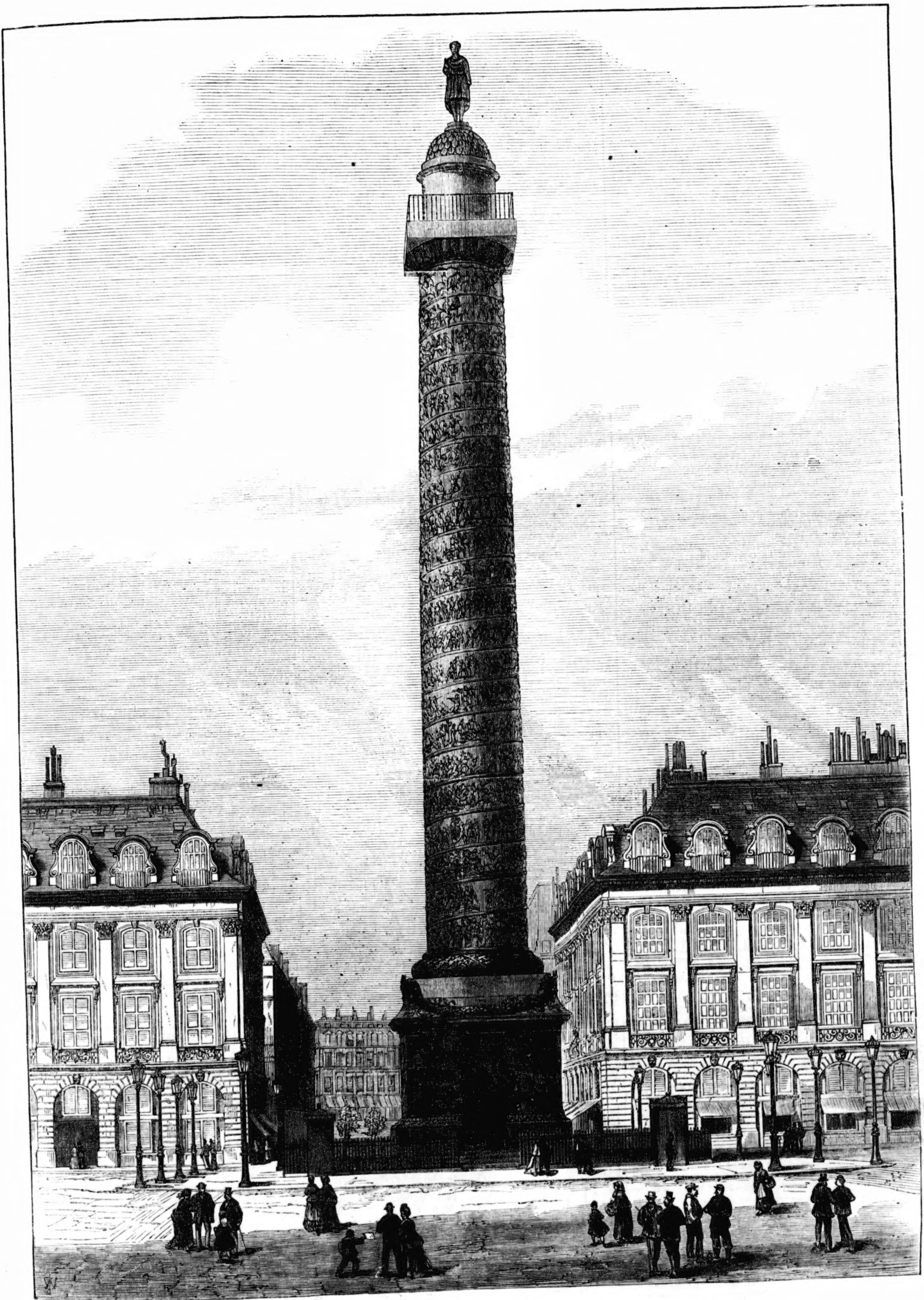
ILLUSTRATIONS
OF THE FRENCH CIVIL WAR.

TRADE IN WAR RELIQUES.

AN odd people are the French; and more fond of sight-seeing, relique-gathering, and monster-hunting than even we English, certain as "any monster is to make a man" among us. During the whole of the German siege of Paris there was considerable difficulty experienced by the authorities in preventing crowds of people from following the troops out of Paris when sorties were made, or anything like severe fighting was expected to be in hand, and also from assembling on the Trocadero and other exposed places after the bombardment began, in order to witness the bursting of the shells. Quite a trade in "war reliques," too, was set up, and quite a roaring business was done. M. Sarcey states that there was a kind of exchange established, at which the pieces of shell were quoted according to their size or the singularity of their jagged edges. A piece that was still hot was worth fifty centimes extra. In order to pick them up people were guilty of imprudences which aggravated still further the impatience of the crowd. No sooner had the projectile plunged into the ground than men, women, and children all rushed forward to look at it. The Government was compelled to issue a decree forbidding the public to assemble at the places where the shells were falling. It explained in a circular that an obus, falling at a given spot, was



THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE: A MOB ATTACKING ESCORTED PRISONERS IN PARIS.



THE COLUMN IN THE PLACE VENDÔME, PARIS, LATELY DESTROYED BY THE COMMUNE.

nearly always followed by a second, which generally preceded a third, and that it was running a useless risk to thus expose oneself. People read the proclamation, pronounced it to be a very proper one, and paid no attention to it. This is the Parisian nature. Among the pleasanties of the moment there is one related which is very typical of the Paris *gamin*, and not devoid of humour. We had been warned that, so soon as the significant hissing of the obus through the air gave us notice of its approach, we were to throw ourselves on our stomachs, so as not to be hit by the splinters which are thrown up. When the working-men's children, or even the fathers, saw a fat tradesman, with his heavy gold chain attached to his waistcoat, walking along the street to see if there was anything going on in the way of shelling, they would watch the moment when he was near a very muddy spot, and then scream out "a shell!" The bourgeois, as if moved by machinery, would throw himself on to his stomach, with his face in the mud, from which he withdrew it amidst universal laughter. The same sort of thing has gone on all through the later and much more severe bombardment by the Versailles troops, the traffic not having been suspended even during the supreme moments that have occurred since the entry of the soldiers of M. Thiers into Paris. A correspondent mentions that, on Monday, while the fighting was going on, he witnessed an incident illustrative of the passion for collecting war relics. He says:—"There was a scrimmage at a rough, hastily thrown-up barricade in the Boulevard Haussmann, about 500 yards nearer Pepinière than the Rue de Lafayette. It was carried by the Versailles marines. I could see them jumping up on the barricade. Everywhere, as I learn, the Versailles were led by gendarmes and sailors or marines. The National Guards fell back, dodging behind lamp-posts and in doorways, and firing wildly as they retreated. This drew a still heavier fire from the Versailles barricade. A bullet struck the front of a lamp-post, behind which I stood, and fell flattened in the road. Would you believe it? A woman stepped out from the gable of the Rue de Lafayette, picked up the bullet, and walked coolly back, clapping her hands with glee." This woman, no doubt, meant to keep the bullet as a cherished relic of the day, or thought it an article sure to bring its price. Our engraving shows the traffic in war relics going on during the later days of the second bombardment. The little street merchant, who has collected quite a stock of fragments of missiles of all descriptions, is coolly offering them for sale; while a National Guard has just brought an addition to the store, which elegant ladies and well-dressed gentlemen are inspecting.

ATTACK ON VERSAILLES PRISONERS.

In a late number we published an engraving showing prisoners belonging to the army of Versailles, who had been captured by the Communists, being conducted into Paris. We now publish a companion picture; but we fear we must modify to a certain extent what we then said as to the treatment these prisoners received. So far as the conduct of their captors and of the National Guards generally was concerned, there was little to complain of, but it was not always easy to restrain the mobs of Paris from wreaking their spite and vengeance on the unfortunate "Regulars" who fell into the hands of the Federals; and our engraving on page 328 portrays a scene that we learn was witnessed more than once when prisoners were being escorted through the streets. The appearance of such an escort immediately attracted a crowd of the lowest, roughest, rudest of the populace, who made violent efforts to seize upon the prisoners and subject them to "lynch law," then and there. To their credit be it said, however—and, after what has just occurred in Paris, the Communists will have need of all the credit for mercy and forbearance they can obtain—the National Guards in charge exerted themselves to protect their prisoners from the mob, and usually succeeded. That like efforts were not made by those in authority on the other side the following passage from a telegram from Versailles, dated Wednesday, will show:—"The whole way to Sévres the road was crowded with trains of waggons, ambulance vans, policemen, and cavalry escorting prisoners. To show the bitterness of feeling among military men at Versailles, I may mention that when one of four field officers in conversation expressed a wish to see the prisoners handed over for the benefit of science to the professors of vivisection, the other three applauded the idea. While talking, a young captain entered the café to refresh himself with a glass of beer. He was in command of a convoy of prisoners going to Satory, and said he had ridden his country of some of the scoundrels. One from fatigue, one from weakness, and two who were sulky, had sat on a bank. He ordered them to get up directly if they did not want to be shot. 'Shoot us!' replied one of the prisoners. 'I will take you at your word, my good fellow,' the captain answered; 'and I shall consider those who do not get up directly to be of the same mind as you.' No one moved. The firing-party was quickly told off, and the four men were corpses in another instant. The captain was highly commended by his brother officers for his firmness, and when he had gone all fell praising him."

AN IMPROVISED POST OFFICE.

Shortly after the outbreak on March 18, when the insurgent leaders and the authorities of the Paris Post Office failed to come to amicable terms for the working of that department, M. Rampon, the then Postmaster-General, retired to Versailles, carrying with him the entire staff and material of the department. This for a while caused great confusion. The mails continued to arrive with provoking punctuality, and an enormous amount of correspondence accumulated, to clear off the delivery of which tasked the utmost efforts of the parties to whom the Commune had committed the care of postal affairs. To make matters worse, the leaders determined to inspect the letters of persons believed to be carrying on dangerous communications with the outside world. The opening, reading, and resealing of these suspected letters occupied much time, and often caused serious delays in their delivery. The ordinary accommodation of the Post Office was found insufficient, and a temporary office was improvised at the Louvre, one of the grand halls of which was appropriated as a sorting-room. The scene there exhibited is depicted in our engraving on page 332, and will convey some notion of the state of confusion to which affairs had been reduced.

SALUTING THE RED FLAG.

When the Commune abolished the national tricolour and installed the drapeau rouge in its place, there was great parade made of the operation of saluting the new flag. Parties of National Guards marched through the streets bearing the emblem of the Communist Republic; and all who came in contact with the procession were compelled to pay reverence to the flag. Motley, decidedly, were these processions; some of the persons composing them being on foot, some on horseback, some in vehicles of different descriptions; and, as your average Frenchman is but an indifferent equestrian, and your average Parisian no equestrian at all, the figures the horsemen cut were not a little grotesque. The ludicrousness of the exhibition, however, helped to attract crowds; and so the Red Flag of Liberty obtained all the more persons to do it reverence. Such a scene is shown in the engraving on page 333.

THE REMAINS OF SIR JOHN HERSHEL were interred in Westminster Abbey on Friday week. The grave is close to that of Sir Isaac Newton, at the extreme east end of the nave.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH.—Last week the aggregate mortality in London and nineteen other large towns of the United Kingdom was at the rate of 25 deaths annually to every 1000 of the estimated population. In the metropolis 2069 births and 1486 deaths were registered, the former having been 162 below and the latter 86 above the average. The fatal cases of smallpox were 267; and from the same disease 50 persons died in Liverpool, 14 in Newcastle-on-Tyne, 10 in Manchester, 9 in Sunderland, and 5 in Salford. Smallpox continues fatally prevalent in many other parts of the country. With respect to London, the deaths from other zymotic diseases were 11 from measles, 23 from scarlet fever, 8 from diphtheria, 43 from whooping cough, 34 from different forms of fever (of which 9 were certified as typhus, 18 as enteric or typhoid, and 7 as simple continued fever), and 22 from diarrhoea.

THE LOUNGER.

Who is Mr. Smithies? I never heard of the gentleman until last Saturday, when I read in my *Spectator* that he told the School Board—presumably the metropolitan—that "a former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Thomas Harper, left two fields in Bloomsbury for the education of poor boys in Bedfordshire. At the time of the bequest the value of the land was £40 a year. Now it is £80,000, and at the end of the present lease it will be £160,000." It would be difficult to cram in so many lines more blunders than we find here. In the first place, the name of the founder of the Bedford charity was Sir William Harper. Second, the school was founded for poor Bedford, not Bedfordshire, boys. Third, the present income is about £13,000, not £80,000; and, lastly, it will not increase to £160,000 at the end of the present lease, nor increase at all; for the leases of the houses long since ran out, and said houses are let at rack rents, and are not in an improving neighbourhood. On the contrary, rents in Bedford-row, Lamb's Conduit-street, Theobald's-road, and the vicinity thereof, have rather a downward tendency. The *Spectator* thinks that the State should take the management of our great charities, as if the State had proved itself to be a successful manager of its own special affairs. The Army and Navy, for example. The *Spectator* says there is much neglect, waste, and extravagance in the management; and no doubt generally there is. But this Bedford charity is an example to the contrary. Sir William Harper founded the charity in the eighth year of the reign of Elizabeth, 300 years ago. The estate and management were vested in the Mayor, bailiffs, burgesses, and commonalty of the town of Bedford—in the Corporation, in fact, which was for a long time a representative body. In process of time, though, it came to be, not by right but by custom, a self-elected body, and became of course, as all civil corporations have a tendency to be, corrupt. These gentlemen would have misappropriated the charity, and probably did misappropriate it to some extent; but in 1763 or thereabouts, when the charity had got to be of the value of something like £5000, the sturdy townsmen took up the matter, applied to Parliament for an Act, and got one, by which the householders paying scot and lot were empowered to elect by ballot twelve trustees, which number was afterwards, by another Act, increased, to check the corrupt corporation; and by this—the *Spectator* mark—the charity was saved from waste, extravagance, and mismanagement. It is curious that in those old Tory days Parliament should have granted household suffrage and vote by ballot; but so it was. And now, before I part with this subject, a word or two to the *Spectator*, *Pall Mall*, and other leaders of public opinion who are yearning after State management of charities and many other things. We have somewhat too much of this. Our charities need overhauling. Most of them, no doubt, have been sadly mismanaged. But why? Simply because they have been managed by close bodies. Before the Municipal Corporation Reform Act was passed, in 1835, almost all corporations were more or less close bodies; and the jobbery, the robbery, the extravagance which they perpetrated is quite inconceivable to this generation. The Municipal Corporation Act put a stop to it all. I say this without reservation. Of course, these elected corporations are not perfect; but I do not believe that any public property is better managed than that of municipal corporations—excepting always that of the Corporation of London; but the Municipal Reform Act did not touch that. By all that is valuable in experience, let us keep clear of parental government.

Mr. Gladstone, on Tuesday night, showed us his hand. He means to "put through" the Army Regulation and the Ballot Bills "without any reference to time whatever," which in plain language—Mr. Gladstone does not always speak in plain language—means that these bills are to be passed, though the House, to accomplish this, shall have to sit till September, or even later. This is throwing down the gauntlet to the factious military obstructives. "Don't think of talking this Army Bill out, gentlemen," it says; "we mean to pass it." This is the right thing to do. It is a pity, though, that it was not done before. And now, my Lord Elcho, what will you and your brother conspirators do? Cave in? That were the wisest course, for if you do not you will have no grouse-shooting. But they will give in now that they see that their policy—"masterly policy of obstruction," as they call it—must fail.

By-the-way, Mr. Editor, this over-regulation price is a bad business. I had no notion until I looked into it that it was so bad. You know, of course, that by statute if any man buys or sells a commission at a price above the regulation scale he is liable to two years' imprisonment, and that anyone who informs against a person so offending may get £500. "But this is an old obsolete law," you may say. But nay; the law is renewed every year in the Mutiny Act, and has been renewed this year since Mr. Cardwell laid his bill on the table. Further, and still more sad to my mind, every man who buys a commission has to solemnly declare that he has not given for it more than the regulation price—I suppose, as the phrase is, "on the honour of an officer and a gentleman." What will the outside world think of this when it comes to understand it?

Most people have heard of the training-ship Chichester and the Refugees for Homeless and Destitute Children. The figures given in the last report of the society are startling, and well worthy the attention of anyone who is interested in the history of Charity:—

It commenced operations as a night ragged school, in a hayloft over a cowshed, in the once well-known "Rookery" of St. Giles, open on two nights a week only. . . . In 1843 the contributions in support of the work of the society amounted to £130; in 1860 the income had risen to upwards of £4000 per annum, and last year reached the substantial sum of £22,300 odd. Ten years ago the society had but 172 boys and girls under its care; now it has 632. . . . The payments for the year, including the investment of Mr. Davis's legacy and the building of the new wings at Ealing, amount to £20,820 7s. 7d., which, being deducted from the receipts and balance at the commencement of the year, leaves a balance in hand of £1712 10s. From £180 to £22,300 in twenty-eight years!

The New British Gallery in Old Bond-street has been temporarily devoted to a purpose at which a certain number of people will wonder, and which a very large number will deplore. This is a collection of "Spirit Drawings," produced through the "medium" of a lady artist and spiritualist, who, whatever may be her claims to talent, professes to be no more than a passive instrument for the operations of those who are said to produce these "manifestations." We need not now enter into any description, still less into any discussion as to the strange impositions of some of those who have called themselves "mediums" and professed to juggle by preternatural means. And it would be little more satisfactory to call attention to the calamitous results on those who, having been in a receptive state, followed the superstition and went on in delusion. It would be only charitable to attribute the exhibition now to be seen at the New British Gallery to some such unfortunate contagion acting on a peculiar mental condition united with a sense of skill in a definite accomplishment. Let it be fully understood that a lady of peculiar temperament caught the mental infection of which we speak; that every evening for three months she sat at a table waiting for communication from the other world; that two years afterwards, when she had indulged for some time in the perilous delusion, she heard of "spirit drawing;" that during the early part of her life she had devoted almost her whole time to the acquirement of an artistic talent; and we may not find it difficult to understand how the phase of the superstition became accommodated to the facile accomplishment. As to understanding the drawings themselves, that is beyond hope. Not because they suggest a profound or an exalted symbolism; but because they are mere examples of the confusion that neither suggests

anything nor contains anything on which to exercise rational comprehension. They differ as the marbled-paper covers of a gross of common school copy-books may differ, and are much less stimulative to the imagination than the accidental shapes that we see in the veinings of a marble mantelpiece or in a grained door. From this the reader will infer, and infer truly, that most of them (and particularly those which profess, with a sort of insane profanity, to be symbolic representations of the Divine nature and Providence) are little more than a confused congeries of spiral, wavy, eccentric, concentric, and erratic lines, overlying each other in brilliant colours, and with, sometimes, the introduction of very delicately-executed "stippling" and a kind of pattern or thread design of lace or pearl work. Suppose an artist with brilliant moist colours ready, idly thinking about anything but work, and beginning "to scribble," in charming lines on his paper, as most of us do on our blotting-pads while we are talking, and you have the only suggestion made by these "spirit drawings." Some of them, however, branch out into queer, exaggerated forms which might be dim representations of fairy flowers or plants, and might almost as easily be regarded as imperfect recollections of anatomical illustrations. These are called "the flowers" of certain persons who have departed this life, or who are still amongst us, and are supposed in some unexplained way to indicate the dispositions of the living or of the dead. There are other "drawings" which are apparently mere brilliant "scribbles," or, if they are designed to represent anything, can only be supposed to be "studies" of tangled masses of silk threads of various colours, and these are called "spiritual crowns," though on what heads they could rest or what addition they could be to the happiness, usefulness, or personal appearance, is neither explained nor guessable.

THE LITERARY LOUNGER.

THE MAGAZINES.

The *Fortnightly Review* is the driest number I have seen for a long while, but by no means the most uninteresting. "Anne Furness" is as good as usual, and the short critical notices are particularly good. It is very difficult to write in ten lines a review which shall be tolerably exhaustive as a review and readable for its own sake as well. Mr. Frederic Harrison deals with the "Revolution of the Commune" as he might be expected to deal with it. Personally, I quite agree with him that the true hope of the world (in politics) lies in the disintegration of large States; only, some people would like to carry the processes a step further and go in for the disintegration of all States whatever and the reduction of society to the smallest possible groups, in which there should be the smallest possible amount of control exercised by anyone! There is millennium for you! But there is no doubt this is simply the last term of Protestantism, which means, simply, every man his own sovereign and his own priest. The fun is that Mr. Harrison's logic irresistibly carries him to this conclusion; and yet Mr. Harrison is a Comtist. It is a comical world—very. Viscount Amberley has a paper on the question, "Can War be Avoided?" The essay fills twenty pages, and the substance of it may be put in twenty words. Briefly, it amounts to this:—As the world gets wiser, it is not hopeless to try and get nations to unite in a federal union for mutual arbitration in cases where we have war, and for visiting with pains and penalties (of blockade and the like) individual nations that break the agreement; but it must still be impossible to dispense with the last resort—that is, force. In other words, the majority of the federated nations might have to declare war against any resisting minority. This is the sum and substance of the essay, and it needed no ghost to come from the grave to tell us so much. It seems to me that a great deal is to be expected in this matter from science, which could very easily bring all war to a *reductio ad absurdum*. What hinders it, doing so now is the hesitation of mankind at large upon certain questions of humanity. The hesitation is right, but, pushed to its true limit, it will leave the field open for science to make war ridiculous. It does not follow that there should be an end to all conflict between nations any more than that there should be an end to all conflict between individuals; and, indeed, till conscience is extinct mankind will believe that there is something worse than pain.

The *St. Pauls Magazine* is always highly interesting, but there is surely too much matter for the money. Mr. Macdonald, Mr. Anthony Trollope, and the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," all write stories for it, and there is no end of excellent miscellaneous matter. The author of "The Procession of the Children to St. Paul's"

When every one receives a bun and goes without a dinner, is probably not aware how much discomfort to the children, or a good many of them, the whole thing involves; and that it is not an uncommon thing with delicate ones to faint before the day is over.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

For once in a way, there was a free theatrical Saturday last week, and your Lounge, who has not been absent from his stall one Saturday since Christmas, was able to hurry down to health-giving Margate, and to inhale ozone instead of being asphyxiated with bad gas. I am very fond of the play, it is true; but, upon my honour, a Saturday to Monday in the Isle of Thanet is not to be despised. It was only a temporary lull; for I find myself booked actually three deep for this evening. In the afternoon I am bound to the PRINCESS, where the new drama by Sir George Young, called "Shadows," will be produced. I made a mistake last week in saying that the young Baronet's play was coming out last Saturday. This afternoon (Saturday) it is due, and the services of such artists as Mrs. Vezin, Mr. Coghlan, Mr. John Nelson, and others have been specially engaged. I hope the thing will be a success, for the sake of Mr. Hastings, who fights the battles of the untried, and who appears determined to bring promising young authors to the front. On Saturday night I have a call in two directions. Mr. W. J. Gilbert's long-promised "Great Expectations" will be brought out at the Court, together with a new farce by the late Mr. T. W. Robertson. At the VICTORIA a two-act comedy, also new, by Mr. Albery, called "Tweedie's Rights," will help to pass away the time until the return of Messrs. Montague, Irving, Stephens, Honey, Miss Fawcett, and the others, from the provinces. This is not Mr. Albery's long-promised comedy in succession to "Two Roses," but a merry trifle for Messrs. James and Thorne *pour passer le temps*.

I never had the pleasure of seeing a play called "The Poor Relation," written many years ago by Messrs. Augustus Mayhew and Sutherland Edwards, but I can promise anyone a good laugh who goes to see "The Four Cousins," a new, revised, altered, improved, polished, and witty edition of the old play brought out this week at the GLOBE. It is called a comedy bouffe; and this, I presume, means a two-act farce, which should have been acted by Charles Mathews in succession to "Woodcock's Little Game." It is the best bit of fun I have seen since that excellent Maddison Mortonian farce. The wit is not strained; the fun is not forced; and for a good hour and a half the audience is perpetually on the giggle. The principal character falls happily, to the lot of Mr. F. Dewar, a capital actor, who will make much of the character of Dr. Flam, now that the nervousness of the first night is over. Mr. Dewar is not happy on the first night of a new play; but he showed sufficiently well to enable me to prophesy that he will make a great hit of the quack doctor, a queer compound of Mr. Alfred Jingle and Robert Macaire. Even Mr. Worboys was occasionally funny, and Miss Emily Burns showed to advantage. The extreme simplicity of the style of Miss Isabella Armour will, I fear, ruin any chance of progress. "Falsacappa" has managed to attract the young swells, who roll up to the Globe in broughams after dinner, decorated with the inevitable button-hole bouquet and the conventional tooth-pick. I cannot say if such patronage is complimentary to

"Falsacappa" or not. It is, no doubt, intended as complimentary to the dozen young ladies whose mellifluous appellations fill the whole of one side of Mr. Rimmel's programme. Mdlle. Cornelia d'Anka is the great attraction, though some lose their hearts to Mdlle. Marguerite Debreux. Mdlle. Annetta Scasi—an elaborate alteration of Miss Annetta Isaacs—is still *facile princeps* in the acting and singing department.

The clever little French company at the CHAMBER-CROSS has packed up and gone away, much to everyone's regret; and the French Vaudeville company is no longer to be found at the Lyceum. But there is no break in the LYCEUM success. The Variétés' artists have arrived, and I cannot imagine a more delightful treat, in its way, than the acting of Leuscar in "La Partie de Piquet," a delicious little dramatic romance which should have been transferred to the English stage long ago.

"Macbeth" is announced at the PRINCESS's next week, with Locke's music—Mr. Phelps as Macbeth. New scenery by Mr. F. Lloyd, and other attractions.

Mr. Corney Grain, at the GALLERY OF ILLUSTRATION, has introduced a new song, called "The Fancy Fair," of the same pattern as the other ditties, which are so much appreciated at this most popular entertainment.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON AND THE RITUALISTS.

A LETTER was published on Monday which has been addressed by the Bishop of London to the Rev. R. Temple West, one of the 1700 clergy who signed the remonstrance against the Privy Council judgment in the Purchas case. Having remarked that the coercive duties of a bishop are the most painful duties which his office devolves upon him, Dr. Jackson proceeds:—"The relation of a bishop towards his clergy should be that of an elder brother or a father; and his authority, although derived from God's Word, should be paternally or fraternally exercised. That it is not always so may not be in all cases the bishop's fault. There may be wanting on his part gentleness, consideration, and sympathy, a spirit of equity, or a spirit of love; but, on the other part, if the true relationship is to be maintained, there must be an appreciation of the difficulties of his position and duties, indulgence towards his failures of judgment or temper, an abnegation of the spirit of *avouia* and wilfulness, which is the prevalent character of the times we live in; and a readiness, or at any rate a determination, to obey his monitions, not being contrary to God's Word, not merely when they are agreeable to our own opinions and habits—which is hardly worth calling obedience—but when they run counter to our wishes and feelings, do not commend themselves to our judgment, and require a sacrifice of our own will. In this estimate of our relative positions and duties I do not believe that we differ. In this spirit, if I know myself at all, I desire to act. And therefore, at this crisis of our Church's history, when her peace and usefulness, or woe for generations to come, depend, under God, upon the course taken by her bishops and clergy now, I appeal to you, and to those clergy (they are many, earnest and devoted to their work) who feel with you with respect to the recent judgment—as a brother to his brethren, as a father (if you will let me) to his children—to comply with my earnest desire and my direction that the rules now laid down for the ornaments of the minister and the conduct of public worship may be the rules of our diocese. I, at least, am bound, both in law and conscience, by the recent decisions of the Courts; nor do I deny that they approve themselves to my own judgment as correct interpretations of the mind and laws of the Church of England, which, as a true and living branch of the Church Catholic, 'hath power to decree rites and ceremonies.' I may, of course, be in error; but the responsibility of the error (if such it be) rests properly on me, and is one of the inherent burdens of my office. You, if you accept my ruling, are free from all such responsibility, especially if you accept it for duty's sake, in opposition to your own judgment and in spite of your own strong convictions. Such a sacrifice of self—one, perhaps, of the most difficult—is never made without a blessing. But on those who take a different course, even if their judgment on the matter in dispute is right—much more if it should prove to be wrong—there must lie a very heavy responsibility."

The *Church Times* understands that Dr. Liddon and Canon Gregory have asked the Bishop to make them the first victims, if he should be constrained to allow any prosecutions.

FRENCH PEASANT FARMERS' SEED FUND.—Lord Vernon presided, on Tuesday, over a meeting of the French Peasant Farmers' Seed Fund, at which a report of the executive committee was presented. From this it appeared that the subscription received up to the 18th inst. amounted to £41,955, of which £13,000 had been voted by the Mansion House French Relief Fund. To what extent the committee had distributed seed-corn and potatoes may be judged from the fact that from the northern depot at Amiens about 26,000 occupiers had been relieved, and from the southern depot at Tours nearly 30,000. The returns from the central and western depots had not been received. A balance of £2000 and the Swedish fund of nearly £4000 are held over until the autumn.

LABOUR DISPUTES.—The labour market of Staffordshire, which has been comparatively free from disturbance for some time past, is now threatened with agitation in three branches of industry on the question of wages. The vice and anvil makers of Dudley, owing to the serious competition they experience from more favoured centres of production, have intimated to their workpeople the necessity of reducing the rate of wages as the only hope now left them of retaining the industry in the district. This intimation the men have received with undiluted ill favour, and the determined attitude they have assumed gives rise to a general apprehension that a "strike" will ensue if the masters persist in their determination. The trade is not of very large extent, the average yield being somewhat under 3000 tons per annum. The cabinet brass founders at Wolverhampton have received a notice from their workpeople demanding an increase of 25 per cent in the rate of wages, but it is not thought likely that any concession will be made by the masters. The fine-plate branch of the lock trade in Wolverhampton is also agitated by a demand from the workmen for increased wages. A general strike has taken place in Newcastle-on-Tyne amongst the engineers for a reduction of the time of labour to nine hours per day. The strike in the hosiery trade at Nottingham has been amicably settled through the medium of the board of arbitration.

AGRICULTURAL LABOURERS' WAGES.—The returns obtained from time to time by the Poor-Law Board from unions in every county of England stating the average weekly earnings of agricultural labourers show that in most parts of the kingdom there has been some increase of wages in the course of the last few years. The returns recently issued cover the period of the last year, 1870. There are accounts from four unions in Dorsetshire, which has not acquired a reputation for paying good wages. The wages in the Poole Union are stated at 12s. to 15s. a week, with beer in haytime and harvest, or 6d. a day instead of total abstinence. The return from Wareham and Purbeck is 8s. 6d. to 10s., according to the season of the year, with a house and potato-ground, and fuel, and with wheat supplied at a reduced price. In Cerne Union the wages are 9s. to 10s., with a house and garden rent free, and fuel at some parts of the year, and wheat supplied at 5s. a bushel; in harvest-time, 20s. a week and beer. The Wimborne board of guardians object to making a return; but one supplied by the Rev. Carl Glynn, an *ex officio* guardian; the wages are stated in the return of the first quarter of the year at 9s. to 10s., with no other allowance or emolument; but the return for the last quarter states that fuel is brought for the men occasionally, and that some hold a quarter of an acre of land, from which they derive a profit of about £2 a year. The return for the third quarter states the wages at 9s. 6d., with an allowance of beer at harvest equivalent to about £1; and task work in that quarter is described as producing to a man 15s. to 18s. per week, the total money earnings in that quarter being (apparently) averaged at 13s. a week. Task work in that union in other parts of the year is stated at 12s. or 15s. These statements relate, not to carters and shepherds, but ordinary labourers. If they have a family able to help them, the return indicates that in Wimborne Union women may earn 4s. a week, and children under sixteen 2s. to 4s. A note in the return for the last quarter of the year states that lads of sixteen earn 6s.; from twelve to fourteen, 4s. or 5s.; and from ten to twelve, 2s. 6d. If now we leave Dorset and pass to Yorkshire, we find returns from the North and West Ridings showing men's wages at 12s. to 15s. or 17s. in the winter half of the year, the amount rising in the spring, and in harvest-time reaching for a few weeks to 20s. to 25s., with allowances of food in some places worth 1s. a day. A woman and one child are nearly equal to a man, and the return from Thorne Union states that at task work in harvest a labourer, with his wife and one child, will earn about £2 10s a week. Between Dorset and Yorkshire, there is a great stretch of country and a considerable range of wages.

Literature.

In Exitu Israel. An Historical Novel. By S. BARING GOULD, M.A. London: Macmillan and Co.

To all readers with strength enough to read a novel which is in itself so full of energy that it soon takes rank in the imagination as an actual episode in a tremendous history, this book, by the author of "The Silver Store," will be a real acquisition. With a title which will scarcely be attractive to the skimmers of light literature, and with a preface that assuredly will not successfully appeal to such superficial triflers as turn the pages of three volumes between breakfast and a morning saunter, "In Exitu Israel" is yet one of the most remarkable stories, if not the most remarkable story, of the season. Designed, as it would appear, to open up to the reader a perception of the position occupied by the Catholic Constitutional Church in France through the dreadful days preceding the Reign of Terror, and during the whole of that awful period, this novel illustrates, as the author declares it is intended to illustrate the currents of feeling in the State and Church of France in 1789, currents not altogether unlike those now circulating in our own. How far the strange and deeply stirring narrative may remind the reader of any analogy between the State Church of France at that period and the State-supported Church of England in our own day, must of course depend on some previous experience, and the convictions to which it has led; but, apart from this collateral intention of the work, the vivid and often solemn narrative of the influence and determined energy of the parish priest of Bernay is like a living recital of the history of a time the most prosaic details of which are made picturesque by the lurid light that plays upon them from the kindling fires of revolutionary vengeance.

The story begins in the days when, at Versailles, 15,000 men and 5000 horses were supported at the public cost to give splendour to the seat of Royalty, consuming 60,000,000 livres per annum for their maintenance. The King's house cost eight millions; that of the Queen, four millions; and those of the Princes, nine millions, though they possessed as their appanages a seventh part of the territory of France. The Church drew an annual income of four hundred and fifty millions; the tithes were worth eighty millions, and its buildings were estimated at five hundred millions. Of the land in France, one fifth belonged to the Church, and yet the real working clergy were both poor and oppressed by bishops and Church dignitaries:—

The peasant might not plant what he would in his fields; pastures were required to remain pastures, arable land was to be always arable. If he changed his field into meadow, he robbed the Curé of his tithe; if he sowed clover in his fallow land, the landlord or the abbot turned in his dock of sheep to crop off it what he deemed his share. The lord and the abbot sent out their cattle to pasture an hour before those of the peasant; they had the right to keep huge dove-cots, and the pigeons fed on the grain of the farmer. The tenant worked for his landlord three days in the year for himself, three days for each of his sons and servants, and three for each horse and cart. He was bound to cut and make and stack his lord's hay in spring, and to reap and garner his wheat in autumn; to repair the castle walls, and make and keep up the castle roads. Add to all this the tax to the King—twelve sous per head for each child, the same for each servant; the subvention for the King; the twentieth for the King—that is, the twentieth portion of the fruits of the earth, already tithed for the Church.

Such was the condition of the wretched people in poor villages like those of Bernay and its neighbourhood; such the oppression that ground down men like the farmer Matthias André; such the power which enabled the proprietors and the intendants to treat the villagers like slaves, and to subject their daughters to outrage when it suited their whim or was in accordance with their fancy. Of such despotic proprietors—sensual, treacherous, and overbearing or cynical, unscrupulous, and without faith in any high or noble principle—there are wonderful portraits in the book. Berthier and his father-in-law, Foulon, are sketched with a hand as vigorous as that of Victor Hugo; and the reader will recognise as one of the secrets of strength in the book a remarkable affinity of style to that of a consummate translator dealing with a great French author, but with the immeasurable advantage of the power and facility being combined harmoniously, and without even the occasional suggestion of a difficulty of expression.

To those who object to what are usually called historical novels, "In Exitu Israel" will not be so repugnant as most books which are published under the same category. Few of us object to an historical painting wherein some State incident—an episode in the march of great events—is illustrated, made more telling, and receives additional colour and interest because of characteristic figures which, while they have a definite relation to the main representation, have also a story of their own, the results of which seem to depend on it. Such a picture Mr. Baring-Gould has given us; and so admirably has he preserved harmony in his colour and proportion in his drawing, that we are attracted alike by the history and the narrative, which is its close accessory—illustrating it less by fiction than by example which enlists emotion as well as judgment in our estimate.

Chamber Dramas for Children. By Mrs. GEORGE MACDONALD. London: Strahan and Co.

Messrs. Bell and Lancaster (we think it was those gentlemen) included in their account of what was called the Lancastrian system of education a certain suggestion for dealing with a dirty boy. As we recollect the matter in Sydney Smith, it was that the dirty boy should be set in the middle of the schoolroom, and that one of the girls of the school should go up to him and give him a sort of a gentle smack on the face. Mrs. Trimmer wrote a very solemn attack upon the system, objecting that this might tend to produce in girls a habit of boxing ears. We hope nobody will object to Mrs. Macdonald's "Chamber Dramas" that the close of the little play of "Snowdrop," in which the Queen exclaims "One of us must die," is likely to produce in children a habit of committing suicide. This is a very irrelevant opening, but one must begin somehow, and it is not easy to do justice to the book. It is beautifully printed at the Chiswick Press, and every page has a red border to it. Then there is a most charming picture by Mr. Arthur Hughes. The paper is choice, and the binding is as dainty as can be. Altogether, it is one of the prettiest books ever issued by Messrs. Strahan and Co. Indeed, we can only remember one or two as pretty.

Now for the contents. The stories dramatised are "Cinderella," "Beauty and the Beast," "Snowdrop," and, to make a very great leap, Dickens's "Haunted Man,"—though in the last case we do not happen to be able to say how much of the original is used and how much dispensed with. The stories are dramatised with great ingenuity and skill for the purposes aimed at, and the whole of the work is done in the light of as high and tender an estimate of human life and its ends as ever poet formed. It is understood that the dramas have been successfully represented, and Mrs. Macdonald has done well to publish them. Quotation is, of course, out of the question, so that our readers must take our word for the delicacy with which the work is done and the refined abstinence which, from beginning to end of the book, makes it so utterly inoffensive, though it belongs to a class of writing in which to give offence is only too easy. The great offence of some of the most vivacious writing for children recently published is *knowingness*, and with this is usually combined a tendency to parody of the *knowing* order. This volume is from end to end simple and sweet, and does not contain a single thing to quarrel with, except the treatment of the "Jellyby" question in the first act of the "Tetterbys." In order to avoid the difficulty, such as it was, perhaps a little more pains would have been worth while; but that is the only word, outside of cheerful admiration, that we have to speak of these "Chamber Dramas for Children."

Australian Songs and Poems. By FREDERICK SYDNEY WILSON. Sydney, N.S.W.: Gibbs, Shillard, and Co.

The people of Great Britain are proud, and not without reason,

of the young and vigorous race which they planted on the magnificent western continent of America, and which has made, and is making, such marvellously rapid strides towards fulfilling their "manifest destiny"—whether as one nation or as several—of subduing and inheriting that splendid portion of the earth's surface. But while we glory in the achievements of that great branch of the Anglo-Saxon race—yea, glory in the achievements, even while we dispute with the achievers—we should not forget that in another "Greater Britain" (Australia) there is growing up one more kindred people—bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh—that is also destined to subdue and inherit another grand division of the world, there to preserve—perhaps to perfect—British institutions, to propagate British sentiments, and to perpetuate the English language in a literature of their own. Here have we now before us—as the first whisperings of that literature, shall we say?—a pleasant little book of songs, recording the life, the hopes, the longings, and even the regrets, of our brethren "five thousand leagues away," who yet are one with us in heart and sympathy. And heartily do we welcome "the little stranger" from that far land, and trust that this precursor of the poetry of Australia will be followed by many a goodly contribution hereafter. All the more heartily do we welcome these verses from the fact—though it may seem a little egotistic—that their author is in an especial sense one of "our own craft;" for Mr. Wilson is editor of the *Illustrated Sydney News*. Some of the scenes of which he sings have names that sound strangely to our ears; not a few of these names lend themselves readily to song—such, for instance, as Illawarra, Minna Murra, Kiama, Terrara, &c.; while from others, like Wollongong, Jamberoo, and Gerringong, it seems difficult to extract much of poetic melody; and yet Mr. Wilson does perform the feat. Our author must be a man of varied reading as well as of broad sympathies; for, while there is everywhere apparent in his pieces a tone of originality in style as well as of theme, his verses every now and then awaken recollections of Campbell, Byron, Moore, Lover, Poe, and other old familiar friends; and that his Muse hath an echo of such master-singers is perhaps the highest compliment that could be paid her. The opening piece, "Five Thousand Leagues Away," is a Christmas lyric that cannot fail to awaken sympathy wherever it is read; and we could have been well contented to have quoted that as justification of the praise we have given the book; but it is too long, and extracts would spoil it. Let us, however, give the reader a taste of Mr. Wilson's descriptive power in two verses from a poem entitled:—

SUNSET IN THE FOREST.

Darkly and drearily—dusk-shadows, flying,
Clamber the ridges where fog-wreaths are curled—
Dusky and dreamy—the daylight is dying—
Wasting away from the desolate world!
The yellow light shimmers on rude mountain ledges—
Oh! that a love-glance so tender and bright
Should smile on the clouds and illumine their edges,
Then leave them enclasped in the dark arms of night!
Rifted and shattered the rugged clouds scatter—
Paler the flush on the western sky burns;
Slowly and sadly the heavy drops patter,
Falling like tears on the feathery ferns:
But far in the east, over storm-splintered ridges,
All heart-fall of love comes the beautiful moon
To aliver the sedge—where the fallen log bridges
The deep solemn sleep of the quiet lagoon!

Of course, we do not say that *all* Mr. Wilson's verses are true poetry; but there is a good deal of real poetry in them, and we shall be glad of more from the same source.

Old Pictures in New Frames. Poems by WELD TAYLOR. Wimbome: J. N. Wood.

This volume comes to us from the provinces, and consists principally of sonnets; and if one were so disposed, it would be easy to sneer at "provincial sonnetteers." That, however, forms no element in our motive for noticing the book. Though no great admirers of sonnets as a rule—the sonnet to our fancy having been much abused by weak poetasters capable of nothing better—we like a good sonnet when we meet with it; and in Mr. Taylor's little book there are several to which the epithet "good" may fairly be applied, though perhaps they are somewhat stiff and artificial, as, indeed, sonnets are apt to be, unless the writer be a thorough master of the craft; and that character we cannot quite give Mr. Taylor, deft workman though he occasionally is. Avarice seems to be the special aversion of Mr. Taylor, so we shall select one sonnet on that theme as a specimen, and from that readers may form their own estimate of the author's powers:—

What grief is greater than our time mis-spent,
Blotting life's book with every sullen stain?
Or Avarice, "savage brute," on ruin bent;
Or parent's life, that Heaven alone can claim?
To sell Religion, or sell Liberty?
What the Lord saith shall not be sold,
All else is weighed, and in the scale may lie;
Priceless the others, dearer far than gold;
Love life's dull dregs, and hate the morning ray;
Hate the warm grasp of friendship's honest hand;
Hate love, hate all, as best or worst thou may;
Then hate thyself, and curse thy native land;
Thou unto dark remorse hath sold thyself,
And but one hour shall hold thy shameless pelf.

Warne's Cookery-Book for the Million. Compiled and Edited by MARY JEWRY, Editor of the "Model Cookery-Book." London: F. Warne and Co.

Cookery-books are like spelling-books: of the making of them there is no end; and yet they are all made up of much the same ingredients, the chief, if not the only, difference being in the mode of preparation: in which respect, too, they much resemble cookery itself. But as, with dishes, a vast deal depends, to render them acceptable, on the mode of preparation, so with cookery-books, their usefulness entirely consists in the suitability of their directions to the means and appliances of those in whose hands they are placed. In this little manual, which only costs a penny, the editor has endeavoured to adapt her instructions to the means of the very humblest, and she has fairly succeeded. The poor are generally the worst cooks going: they waste more than they use, and rarely succeed in producing an even moderately relishing meal. This is the result of ignorance; so removing that ignorance must be a good work. The directions here given are simple and easily followed, and if the book contained nothing more than the "advice to the cook" with which it opens, it would be well worth its price; but it contains a vast deal more, and, if studied with even moderate care, cannot fail to introduce pleasure and profit where waste and discomfort reigned before its advent.

A GRAND DRILL REVIEW, organised by the Society of Arts, of four thousand boys, with their bands, will be held by his Royal Highness Prince Arthur in the Royal Horticultural Gardens, on Wednesday, June 14; admittance to the gardens only, one shilling. A musical performance, by the boys, in the Royal Albert Hall, will take place after the review. Subscriptions in aid of the cost of conveying the boys by railway, and providing them with refreshments, will be received by the secretary of the Society of Arts.

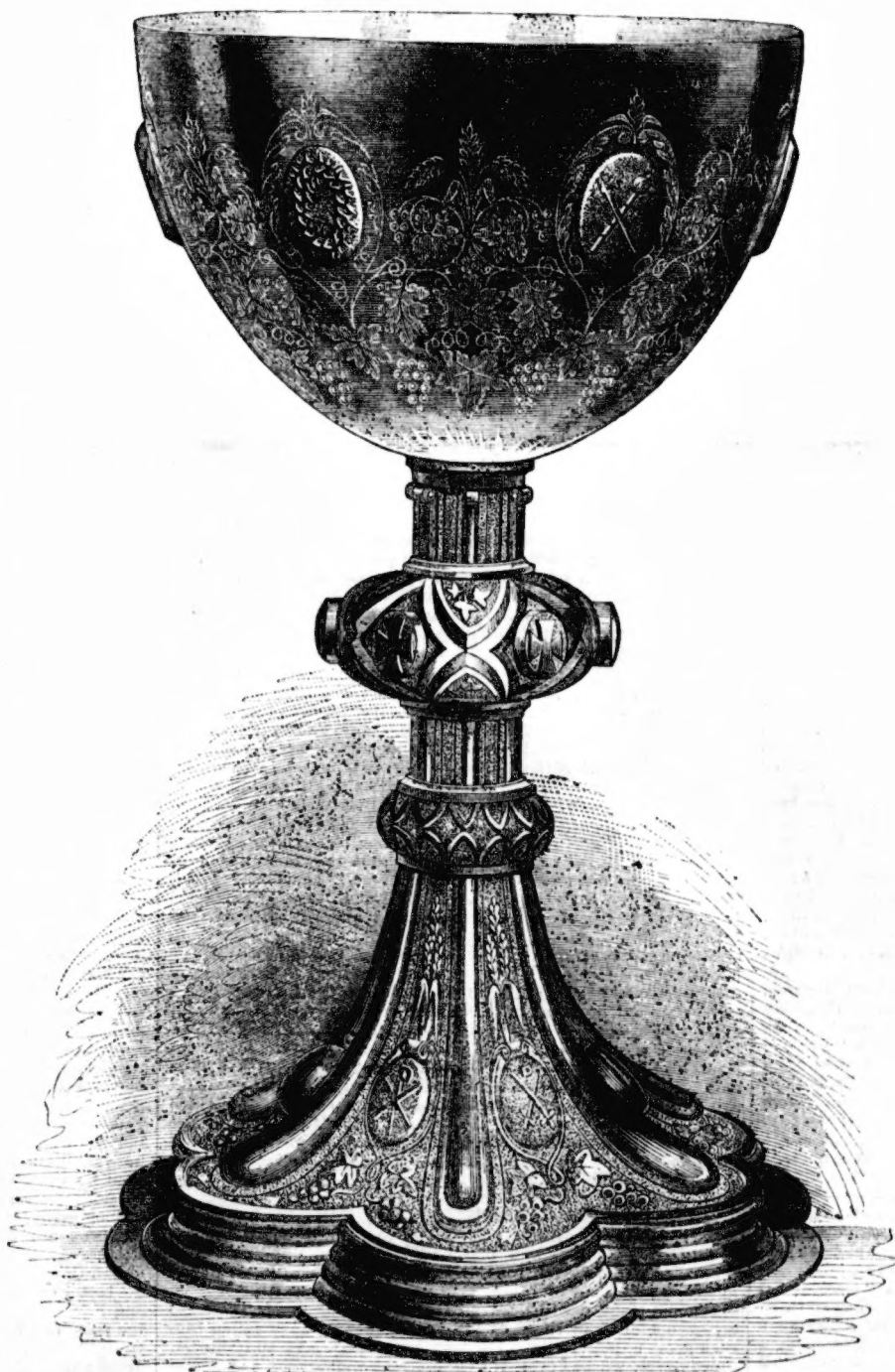
THE BANK HOLIDAYS BILL.—It may be useful to point out that the Bank Holidays Act applies not only to the payment of bills and cheques, but also to the presenting of bills for acceptance. Moreover, no one will be compellable to do any act upon a bank holiday which he would not be compellable to do on a Christmas Day or Good Friday. Therefore bills, whether drawn upon bankers or mercantile firms, must be left for acceptance on the next business day following a bank holiday. Although the holiday on Monday next may not be observed in every department of business, there seems a disposition among the public companies and establishments in the City to bring themselves within the scope of the Bank Holidays Act. Nearly all the principal London fire and life insurance companies, besides the banks and discount and financial companies, will be closed on that day. The Royal Exchange Office has decided also to close its marine department. Some of the other marine insurance companies, together with the committee of Lloyd's, have deferred the consideration of the question until formal notification is made that the Act has received the Royal assent.



THE CIVIL WAR IN FRANCE: AN IMPROVISED POST-OFFICE IN THE LOUVRE, PARIS.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL.

A PAPER, of which the following is an abstract, was read before the Royal Institute of British Architects, on Monday evening last, by Mr. F. C. Penrose, M.A. The subject was "The Decoration of St. Paul's Cathedral." Mr. Penrose observed that it was necessary to begin by asking whether the cathedral should be decorated at all, since the point had recently been raised by an eminent architect (Mr. Street). Some colour had already been introduced; but in the decoration of a cathedral a little colour was a dangerous thing, and until much more had been done in this direction in St. Paul's the effect must necessarily be unsatisfactory. It was Sir Christopher Wren's intention that the dome should be painted in mosaic; that the roofs should be "painted, if required;" that a ciborium, of "the finest Greek marbles," should be erected at the east end; and that the apse should be entirely coated with the same costly materials. For the dome and all concave surfaces Mr. Penrose advocated mosaics; but other kinds of painting, inlaid marbles, sculpture, &c., might be made use of throughout the cathedral. A short description of the interior of St. Paul's decorated as he hoped it would one day be would best enable his hearers to realise what was contemplated. Let the entrance be supposed to be at the west end, about to become the easiest access to the cathedral. On passing through bronze doors richly charged with devices, a striking effect would be produced by the brilliant roof covered with mosaic patterns, and rich with gold. The cupola immediately overhead, 40 ft. in diameter, and the panels of the exquisite side chapels would be pictorially treated in the same material. The walls relieved with marble slabs and marble inlaid; the pavement also, and the windows, enriched with colour, must be so treated as to preserve a due regard for breadth of effect and the necessity in St. Paul's of a large amount of unobstructed sunlight. All panels should be filled with coloured marbles or sculpture, and no niche should be without its statue. The nave and transepts must, however, be in some respects subordinate to the choir. In the great dome, which had been called the very "essence of the building," the grisaille pictures of Sir James Thornhill could not fail ultimately to give place to Sir C. Wren's cherished wish for mosaic pictures. And, in addition to these, the drum and the eight spandrels (the latter already commenced in mosaic) would afford grand scope for the highest efforts of art and magnificence. The roof of the choir should be a splendid and impressive work in mosaic, surpassing the richness of the rest of the church. The windows in the apse would here also be more fully coloured; and the marbles, whether used structurally as replacing the stonework of the principal pilasters or in panels and inlaid patterns on the walls and pavement, would all be arranged so as to impart a fuller idea of sumptuousness. This must be especially the case with the ciborium and the choir-screen,



CHALICE PRESENTED TO ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL BY THE REV. W. S. SIMPSON.

already referred to. Up to the present time the committee had been chiefly occupied with the rearrangement of the stalls, organ, &c.; but in the direction of the more general embellishment of the cathedral they had taken the step of inviting Mr. Burgess to supply an iconographical scheme—that is, a selection of subjects to be pictorially treated in the different parts of the structure. This had been done, and although Mr. Burgess was perfectly unfettered, his scheme differed only in fulness from that contemplated by Dean Milman and his committee. The same was also true of the style—namely, the cinque-cento, which Mr. Burgess recommended. These concurrent views, and the treatment of many Continental churches and cathedrals, satisfied Mr. Penrose that the beauty of the interior of St. Paul's would be greatly enhanced by decoration. There were two places where, above all others, a commencement should be made, and which should, he thought, be carried on *pari passu*. One was the apse, as the completion of the sacrum, and the other the dome. The apse windows, before many months, would be filled with painted glass; and if the present ideas, identical, moreover, with Mr. Burgess's iconography, should be carried out, a colossal figure of Our Lord, surrounded by angels, would adorn the vault of the tribune, the material being mosaic. As for the dome, a few more thousand pounds added to the present subscriptions would enable the committee to carry out Sir Christopher Wren's plan of a dome vying in rich ornamentation with that of St. Peter's at Rome, without being in the least copied from it. The subject most suited to the dome mosaics was, by consent of all, that of the heavenly Jerusalem. This idea was the centre of Mr. Burgess's scheme, and of designs which the lecturer had himself previously prepared. Were the dome once finished, the rest would soon follow. With respect to the painted glass, only three more windows were required to complete the apse, and these must be procured from the Royal manufactory at Munich, which had supplied those already put up; but he did not consider it would be necessary to look to Munich for any more painted windows. The Munich glass-painting, admirable in drawing, fails in texture, which texture, in consequence of Mr. Winston's discoveries, is so remarkably characteristic of English glass. The committee have now actually begun their work in the cathedral, and the first step taken is to re-erect, as a screen to the north door, the columns of the old organ-screen and their entablature, bearing the well-known words, "Lector, si monumentum requiris, circumspice."

It was mentioned in our columns, a few weeks ago, that the Rev. W. S. Simpson, one of the Minor Canons, had promised 100 gs. towards procuring new altar-vessels for the cathedral, and that two chalices and two patens had been completed. The accompanying Engraving represents one of the chalices. These vessels are in the style of the Renaissance,



THE REVOLUTION IN PARIS: SALUTING THE RED FLAG.—(SEE PAGE 330)

to suit the Italian architecture of the church. The chalice is 10 in. in height; its bowl is engraved with wheat and grapes, and enriched with six medallions inclosing symbols of the Passion—viz., the cross, the open book, the Agnus Dei, the three nails, the crown of thorns, and the sponge and spear, all in high relief. The stem is relieved with bright flutes, and the principal boss is enriched with six medallions containing the Greek cross. The whole base is elaborately chased (repoussé) with wheat and grapes, and enriched with six medallions containing the Latin cross and sacred monogram, the arms of the cathedral and the arms of the donors. Underneath the base the following inscription is engraved:—"Deo et Eccles. Cath. D. Pauli Lond. Fest. Convers. S. Patroni hunc calicem dic. Gulielmus Sparrow, A.M., Soc. Antiq. Lond. Socius, ejusdem Eccles. Canon Minor nec non Bibliotheca Cath. et Lambeth, Custos. A.D., cloccecxii." The paten is 8 in. in diameter; the centre is quite plain, the edge being engraved with wheat and grapes, and enriched with six medallions containing the symbols of the Passion, to correspond with the bowl of the chalice. Both chalice and paten are richly gilt all over. These fine specimens of the silversmith's craft have been designed and executed by Messrs. Lias and Son, Salisbury-court, Fleet-street.

MUSIC.

We have to record little more than a series of repetition performances at the Royal Italian Opera. Going back so far as yesterday week, however, a first representation for the season of Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" claims attention. Mr. Gye was able to put forward a cast of special strength in connection with this popular work; and a large audience assembled to witness the Countess of Madame Miolan-Carvalho, the Susannah of Mdlle. Sessi, the Cherubino of Madame Lucca, the Figaro of M. Faure, the Count of Signor Graziani, the Basilio of Signor Bettini, and the Bartolo of Signor Ciampi. Here was an association of artists scarcely to be equalled, assuredly not to be excelled; and yet the performance fell below even the average standard. More than one or two numbers were utterly spoiled; and, as a rule, want of precision marred the evening's enjoyment to a degree noteworthy even in days when all things are done so hurriedly as to leave small chance for the perfection which comes of deliberate and careful progress. The Covent Garden troupe, with five representations a week on hand, tried to take "Le Nozze di Figaro" by storm, and failed, as fail such attempts always must, when the music of Mozart is concerned. Of course the untoward result was not unmitigated. M. Faure obtained great applause for his vivacious embodiment of the Barber and for singing which was really excellent. Madame Lucca's Cherubino was again captivating by its pleasant pertness; and Mdlle. Sessi did better than usual, from a dramatic point of view. But these things, and others of a like character, could not remove the impression of slovenliness which pervaded the entire evening's work. Since "Le Nozze," the performances have been such as call only for bare mention. "Don Giovanni" was repeated last Saturday, "La Sonnambula" on Monday, "Die Zauberflöte" on Tuesday, "Il Barbiere" on Thursday, "Faust" on Friday, and for to night "Dinorah" is announced.

At Her Majesty's Opera the illness of Mdlle. Marie Marimon has proved a serious drawback. She could not appear on Thursday week, and "Faust" was substituted, with Mdlle. Léon-Duval as the heroine; nor was she forthcoming on Tuesday, when "Lucia," with Mdlle. Di Murska in the title-role, took the place of "La Sonnambula." Each "stop-gap" performance had merit, but not such as to call for notice here; and it is equally unnecessary to dwell upon the repetition of "Les Huguenots" on Saturday. Mdlle. Marimon was to reappear as Amina on Thursday, and she is announced for the same character to-night. Let us hope that she will be able to fulfil every engagement, and so establish a position which may prove one of the highest ever yet achieved.

The Philharmonic Society's concert, on Monday, in St. James's Hall, was remarkable both for the length of the programme and the excellence of its contents. Schubert's fully-developed symphony in C, Mendelssohn's Italian symphony, Mozart's prelude and fugue in D, and three vocal pieces were surely a "feast of fat things" adapted to satisfy the most voracious. But when to these was added Beethoven's violin concerto, voracity itself might have cried, "Hold! enough!" Nevertheless, a large proportion of a large audience sat out the concert; and everybody present enjoyed the concerto, played, as it was, with a mechanical dexterity and a refined expression such as even Madame Norman-Néruda never before showed, to our knowledge. The purely orchestral music was given with much vigour; and the vocalists—Madame Sinico and Mr. Bentham—elicited frequent compliments.

At a concert of the New Philharmonic Society, held in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday, a novelty was produced in the shape of Mozart's "Idomeneo," an opera written just when the master was turning his attention to concerted music as an obvious means of dramatic effect. Hence it abounds in splendid choruses, more than one of which—but "Placido il mar," above all—have long been familiar in English concert-rooms. Amateurs should thank Dr. Wyld for the chance of hearing nearly the entire work, and for hearing it interpreted under favourable conditions. The soloists were Mdlle. Titens, Madame Fabbri, Signor Vizzani, and Mr. Bentham, each of whom sang with zeal, and with an intelligence which served Mozart's delicious music admirably. Moreover, the band and chorus acquitted themselves well; and it is not the fault of the executants if "Idomeneo" be not accounted—as what, in some respects, it is—the great composer's finest opera. After "Idomeneo," Herr Jaell played the third of Beethoven's five pianoforte concertos; and exhibited all that command over the resources of the instrument which on so many occasions has brought him great applause. Exception might be taken to the style of the first cadenza he introduced; but there was no choice save to admire the brilliancy of his attack upon the difficulties it presented. The overture to Weber's "Abu Hassan" closed a very interesting concert.

Of benefit concerts the name is legion, and we can only allude in brief terms to the more important. A short notice, indeed, is all such things deserve, inasmuch as they rarely have any artistic or public importance. Miss Austin's concert in the Hanover-square Rooms, on Monday, was notable for the amount of classical music presented, and for the co-operation of Madame Néruda and Mr. Hallé. Madame Puzzi, who summoned her friends to St. George's Hall on the same day, was content to bring forward a lot of operatic and other artists, with nothing save well-known examples of fashionable art in hand. Mrs. John Macfarren's concert took place, on Thursday, in St. George's Hall, and the pianoforte solos of the bénéficiaire were, as usual, both important and agreeable features of the programme. Also, on Thursday, the students of the Royal Academy of Music held another of their attractive public rehearsals; and on Friday a concert of singular interest was given by Mr. Bache in the Hanover-square Rooms, with a programme chiefly selected from the works of Abbé Liszt.

THE SUNDAY PERSECUTIONS.—Mr. P. A. Taylor, M.P., in a letter to the *Daily News*, states that Mrs. M'Loughlin, the poor woman whose case he recently mentioned in the House of Commons as having been prosecuted for Sunday trading, has received from Mr. J. Bee Wright the following letter:—"40, Tavistock-crescent (sic), May 17, 1871. Mrs. M'Loughlin.—I am, I see, exhibited in your window a number of summonses and a paper relating to them. I beg to say that these are calculated to produce a breach of the peace, and, unless you have them removed at once, I shall think it my duty to ask for a summons against you to show cause why you keep them there.—Yours faithfully, J. B. Wright." A clergyman of the neighbourhood (Mr. Taylor adds), a few days ago, illustrated the purity of his Protestant sentiments by addressing Mrs. M'Loughlin, so far as her recollection goes, in the following terms:—"Mrs. M'Loughlin, I'm ashamed of an old woman like you to put such an infidel paper in your window" (it was a petition to Parliament for repeal of Charles II.'s Act, beginning with the statement that every man should be the sole judge of his duties as to the observance of Sunday). "A man the sole judge, indeed! What right has any man to be the judge? Haven't we got the Bible? You and your Roman Catholic lot will find it out at the last day." This poor woman is very timid and nervous, and nearly seventy years old.

M. THIERS, HIS CABINET, AND THE ASSEMBLY.

Versailles, May 21.

IN and around the Assembly, in all political regions, ambition is rising, minds are roused, and parties are preparing the execution of their designs. It is said by some that the Assembly, having voted for the ratification of the Treaty of Frankfurt, has finished its work, and has only got to draw up an electoral law and to retire. This may perhaps be the opinion of M. Thiers; it is not that of the Assembly. The Assembly is, and intends to remain, Sovereign, and to perpetuate its existence if it suits it to do so, and to make itself *constituent* if it so pleases. Who could prevent it? It has the power, considers itself in possession of the right, disposes at its will of the executive power, and only upholds a statesman whom it does not like because M. Thiers is so difficult to replace. "Inconceivable" and "irremplacable": it is by these two words, a double outrage to the French language, that in the meetings of the Right the man and the situation are alike expressed. M. Thiers can neither be kept nor replaced, and for this reason a great part of the Assembly and a considerable portion of the public are actively occupied in seeking a successor for him. M. Grévy has been thought of. The idea is gaining ground and taking consistency; but the Thiers party, on its side, keeps its ground and defends it step by step. It manoeuvres with Parliamentary skill; above all, it avoids decisive resolutions, that it may not become their victim. The other day it seemed on the eve of precipitating the event; in the sitting of the 17th it was to have brought forward a motion conferring on M. Thiers *definitive* powers for two years. At the last moment the Left Centre, the promoter of the idea, thought better of it, and adjourned the motion until the time when the Parisian insurrection should be put down. It hopes, in virtue of this triumph—only retarded, it is said, by M. Thiers, in order to make it more dazzling—to carry a vote of acclamation and enthusiasm. The Left Centre may be deceived; it will have with it a portion of the Left, if M. Thiers is alone in question before the mutinous Right; it will have it all against it if M. Grévy, upheld by the Right, consents to be put in competition. The Right has too much to retaliate not to seize an occasion for doing so. So there is a truce while awaiting the great battle.

It is not difficult to perceive what sacrifices must be made to propitiate the Right. The men of Sept. 4 who were left in the Government will disappear. They have not yet been forgiven for creating a revolution in the face of the enemy, and thus preventing the empire from making peace, and taking upon itself the responsibility of its actions. Peace would have been less disastrous after Sedan than after the siege of Paris; the Republic would not have been made responsible for the misfortunes which accompanied and followed it. Moderate Republicans and Monarchists unite in a feeling of reprobation, which has received no check as yet except from the rather uncharitable idea that those who have filled the cup must empty it to the dregs. The false step of Ferrières is now called to mind, and the refusal of an armistice on Nov. 2, the postponement of the elections, and the military mistakes at Tours, the dictatorship at Bordeaux, the lying despatches of M. Gambetta, the arming of the National Guard of Paris, the blindness with which they were allowed to keep their arms and take possession of the guns, and with which the military stores were abandoned to them. Rightly or wrongly, MM. Picard, Jules Simon, and Jules Favre are considered responsible for these faults and acts of weakness, despotism, or incapacity. All do not go so far as to extend the responsibility to M. Thiers; but it is only on one condition—that he breaks entirely with the unskilful and revolutionary past, which has cost France so much and which has led her within a step of her destruction. If the chief of the executive power persists in keeping about him men who have brought the country to such dire disgrace, it will be against him that a formidable opposition will arise, and doubtless he will be involved in their fall. He will be treated with consideration, an honourable way out of the difficulty will be offered to him, some fancies of his may even be passed over, to show plainly that there is no feeling against him personally, and, without any actual threat, he will be given to understand that if there is no determination to replace him there may yet be the wish.

I do not think it will need any great violence to M. Thiers to separate him from those of his Ministers who have fallen into such great unpopularity. He may make an effort to retain M. Jules Favre, whose devotion to himself he well knows, and whose tardy regrets he respects; but he will willingly allow M. Jules Simon to return to his sentimental opposition, and M. Picard to his lively sallies, the habit of which he has lost since he has been in the exercise of serious power. But by whom are these statesmen to be replaced? Those who are ambitious of power ask this question of their colleagues. The head of the Executive has his candidates; the Assembly has its own, which are not the same—a new source of conflict. M. Thiers has a weakness for M. Leon de Malleville, who was Minister of the Interior during the Presidency of Prince Louis Napoleon, and gave proof then of nothing but honesty. He would lean equally to M. Vitet, a cold and narrow-minded writer, whose writings published during the war are the most distinct condemnation of his political judgment. Then for Foreign Affairs come M. Daru and the Duc de Broglie. Both have won a name in diplomacy, the latter especially, but both would encounter a warm opposition from the Right. This fraction of the Assembly would prefer Republicans who would submit to the national will, like MM. Grévy and Victor Lefranc, to Orleanists who openly argued for war à outrance. It thinks in this to carry out more closely the opinions of its constituents. M. Victor Lefranc would suit the Assembly, and so would M. Buffet, who has separated himself from M. Thiers lately, but who would join him again if M. Thiers withdrew from the men of the 4th of September. The greatest difficulty would always be the Foreign Affairs. The members of the French diplomatic body were ruined by the telegraph system of the Empire. They no longer act or think for themselves; having no liberty, they have lost all power of acting for themselves. There can be found now to fill the higher posts only men of talent wanting in practice, or clever, practical men destitute of capacity.

When M. Thiers has succeeded in remodelling his Cabinet according to the views of the Assembly, his difficulties will not be all over. There are other causes of dissension between him and the Assembly which will soon be apparent to the dullest sight. I will mention three.

M. Thiers is a friend of centralisation. Only the other day, in an article suggested to the *Journal Officiel*, he enlarged upon its benefits at the very moment when the disorders consequent on the forced displacement of the Government show its inconvenience and dangers. It is impossible to conceive the confusion into which the French Administration fell the moment it was necessary to abandon the capital. All the public services, all the provincial interests being concentrated in Paris, the papers concerning them were too bulky to be transported to Versailles, and for want of them the life of the country has been in some sort suspended. The official article threw the responsibility of this on the Paris insurrection; but it seems that it should rather have accused the system which leads to an entire dislocation of the country when the capital is in a state of revolt. The great majority of the Assembly professes opinions entirely contrary to M. Thiers on centralisation. One of its Committees is now elaborating a scheme which will run counter to the life-long convictions of M. Thiers. His whole life and his speeches and his writings protest against the views of the Assembly with regard to the institutions to be given to France. M. Thiers holds to the old system, and maintains that it is in consequence of having derogated on some points from the law of 1832, which was the development of that of 1818, that France was vanquished. "The heavy battalions could not prevail against an army, restricted indeed, but solid and well commanded." Such is the idea which M. Thiers has again put forth before a Commission. The majority of the Assembly, on the contrary, maintain that

large armies are necessary to make head against heavy battalions, and that, in consequence, military service ought to be compulsory on all. In short, it leans strongly towards the Prussian system, which M. Thiers condemns as more onerous, less efficacious, and contrary to the habits of Frenchmen. He congratulates himself on having got back the prisoners, and made of them a small but efficient army, solid, well-commanded, having (says he) an "excellent" corps of subaltern officers; with its co-operation and the assistance of an augmented gendarmerie he will pacify France, which is much disturbed, and Algeria and Paris, which are in a state of insurrection. Paris will be subdivided; the National Guard will be reorganised—the Assembly would like to suppress it. Paris once pacified, no more troops of the Line will be placed within her enceinte in contact with a vicious population; they will be lodged within the forts, of which the number and defences may be augmented. Paris will be guarded by a gendarmerie, composed of tried soldiers, and by a little army of police agents. The deputies consider these last measures very wise, but they will insist on the reform of the army being radical, and on the disappearance of the National Guard as well as of the bastioned enceinte. Of what use has this enceinte been, except to help in keeping up a disastrous siege, and in making it almost impossible to subdue a Parisian insurrection?

The third element of dissension between M. Thiers and the Assembly will be the commercial question; not that the Assembly is entirely in favour of the liberty of commerce, but that M. Thiers and the Cabinet are all for protection. They think that by putting a tolerably heavy duty on the raw material, and by indemnifying it to an equal amount when it is manufactured, they will find a profitable source from which to derive the treasure which is much wanted. Experienced men in the Assembly maintain, on the contrary, that, far from gaining, the State as well as the consumer will lose by this arrangement. But M. Thiers and his colleagues do not stop here; they have resolved on drawing a large revenue from the customs, and, at the same time, favouring what is called "national produce." For this purpose they denounce the Treaty of Commerce with England. Contrary to what was generally admitted under the old Government, they assert that it is not necessary to wait till next February to issue the notices of this declaration; that these notices must date from whatever day the French Government declares its renunciation of the benefits of the treaty. Such are the jurisprudence and the commercial policy adopted by M. Thiers, and the effects will soon be seen. The Assembly would never have assumed of itself the responsibility of so serious an act as the rupture of the Treaty of Commerce; but, after a struggle, which will not be without danger, it will allow it to be accomplished.—*Parisian Correspondent of the "Times."*

THE DERBY DAY.

A DAY after holiday-makers' own hearts—such a one as Londoners have not enjoyed on their annual trip to Epsom Downs for years—a genuine May day as by poets sung before such a thing as east wind existed—a day when Zephyr reappeared once more, and a day of triumph, as was fitting, for Favonius.

There were seventeen runners, a larger field than was expected, and the market underwent some important changes. Bothwell was not in favour, and retreated before the rush made to get on Albert Victor. At one time 9 to 4 was offered, but 2 to 1 was the closing price, while the anxiety of the public to back Mr. Cartwright's horse was the feature of the last half hour before the race. We believe at one time 3 to 1 was taken, but at the close a point more was laid. The other excitement was caused by Pearl, and as little as 8 to 1 was taken about her, while the good looks of Favonius failed to improve his position, as he retreated to 10 to 1. There was little change in the others, except that Ravenshoe and The Count were sent to the outside division, and Grand Coup and King of the Forest were also out of favour. In the preliminary canter—which was led by Bothwell and Columbus, followed by Ravenshoe, King of the Forest, Albert Victor, Ripponden, Pearl, Favonius, Noblesse, Grand Coup, and The Count bringing up the rear—nothing could go better than the favourite, Albert Victor, Pearl, Grand Coup, and Favonius. There was about the usual half hour's delay at the post, chiefly caused by the breakings away of Pearl, Noblesse, Grand Coup, and one or two others, and then the flag fell, the great shout of the multitude was heard, and to a beautiful start the seventeen came up the hill with the rose jacket of Pearl conspicuous in the race, Digby Grand and Noblesse in her wake. Going through the furzes, Columbus fulfilled his mission by rushing to the front and making the running for Bothwell; but he did not long continue in front, and again Pearl's colours were seen in his place, to be soon headed by Digby Grand, who looked so well as he came down the hill as greatly to encourage his backers. The favourite was lying second, but he succumbed at the Road, where French on Favonius was seen to challenge Digby Grand and Albert Victor; and, King of the Forest drawing up, they ran a fine race home, Digby Grand being beaten opposite the Stand, Albert Victor and King of the Forest finishing a dead heat for second place behind Favonius, who won easily by a length and a half. Time, as taken by Benson's chronograph, 2 min. 50 sec.; according to a chronograph supplied by Messrs. Dent, of Cockspur-street, 2 min. 50½ sec.

The cheers which greeted Baron Rothschild were loud—and, we are sure, sincere. He has tried long for this coveted prize of a sportsman's ambition, and now it seems more than probable he will take double honours, and the Oaks fall to his share too.

The Prince of Wales, accompanied by Prince John of Glücksburg and Prince Teck and attended by Colonel Teesdale, drove down in an open carriage with four bays, and witnessed the race from the private stand.

"THE WAR OFFICE SCANDAL."—We understand that the authorities of the War Office, believing that Mr. Whiffen and Mr. Talbot had been sufficiently punished for the "grave impropriety" of their conduct, as income-tax commissioners in that department, by their enforced retirement, have proposed either that they should receive pensions equivalent to the compensation to which they would have been entitled if their offices had been abolished, or that they should be allowed to qualify for full pensions by completing their term of office. This view, however, has not commended itself to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Treasury, considering that Mr. Whiffen and Mr. Talbot, though acquitted of corrupt intention, have been practically removed for misconduct, declines, we hear, to recommend them for any pensions beyond those assigned to their actual periods of service. The case of Sir William Brown, who resigned office a year ago, before the recent disclosures, is, we believe, under the consideration of the Treasury.—*Daily News.*

HARROW AND RUGBY SCHOOLS.—The new statutes for determining and establishing the constitution of the new governing bodies of Rugby and Harrow Schools have been laid before Parliament. The governing body of Rugby is to consist of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county of Warwick for the time being as an *ex officio* member, and of eleven elected members. Of these one each is to be elected by the Hebdomadal Council members of the University of Oxford, the Council of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, the Senate of the University of London, the President and Council of the Royal Society, the Lord Chancellor for the time being, and the head and assistant masters of the school for the time being. Three members are to be elected by the trustees of the Rugby Charity, founded by Lawrence Sheriff, grocer, of London, for the time being, and the remaining two are also to be elected in the first instance by the same body, but afterwards vacancies in these two offices are to be filled up, subject to certain provisions, by the governing body for the time being. The governing body of Harrow is to consist of ten members. One each is to be elected by the Hebdomadal Council of the University of Oxford, the Council of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, the President and Council of the Royal Society, the Lord Chancellor for the time being, and the head, lower, and assistant masters of the school for the time being. Two members are to be elected by the keepers and governors of the possessions, revenues, and goods of the Free Grammar School of John Lyon, in the village of Harrow-on-the-Hill, for the time being, and the other three members are to be elected in the first instance by the same body, but vacancies are to be filled in the same way as is provided in the case of Rugby. The two statutes are to have effect from the date of their approval by her Majesty in Council, and the elections of the governing bodies are to take place within three months from that date.

LONDON POLICE COURTS.

COMMUNISM IN PRACTICE.—At the Mansion House, last Saturday, Robert Henry Christie, thirty-six, was charged before Alderman Sir Thomas Gabriel and Mr. Alderman Gibbons, sitting in petty sessions, with embezzlement. The prisoner had been fourteen years in the employment of Messrs. Ellington and Ridley, carpet warehousemen, in Watling-street, as clerk and cashier, and was receiving a salary of £150, with partial board besides. It was part of his duty to collect accounts due to the firm, and the evidence went to show that on Feb. 23 last Messrs. Nightingale, of Wardour-street, bedding manufacturers, paid him £19 17s. 6d., in discharge of an account due to his employers, for which he gave a receipt; but he never accounted for the money in any way, nor paid it over to them, and the prosecutors had reason to believe that this was not the only case in which he had so defrauded them. They were loth to prosecute him, they said, having regard to his length of service with them and to other considerations, but they felt constrained to do so as a warning to others. Mr. Ellington, one of the firm, told the Bench that the prisoner had said he had kept the money "on principle," and on being asked what he meant by "principle," in such a case, it came out that he had lately imbibed Socialist principles, and held the doctrine that all property was common. Sir Thomas Gabriel said he could hardly have believed a man in his senses could entertain such views. The prisoner pleaded "Guilty," and threw himself on the mercy of the Court. Sir Thomas Gabriel, with the full concurrence of Mr. Alderman Gibbons, sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

THE SABBATHARIAN PROSECUTIONS.—A plaster named Bigwood was charged at the Hammersmith Police Court, on Monday, with assaulting the Rev. J. Bee Wright. According to the complainant's statement, the defendant called at Mr. Wright's house on Sunday last, and asked to see that gentleman. When he went to the door the defendant struck him on the nose, and made it bleed. Mr. Wright added that for several Sundays an attempt had been made to create a disturbance at his house. He did not know the prisoner, but he believed that he had been incited to create a disturbance. The defendant said that his object in going to the complainant's house was to ask him a question. He was unable to speak at the moment, as he had an impediment in his speech. The complainant then pushed him, and he put up his hand to prevent him. Mr. Ingham said that if the assault had been committed in pursuance of a conspiracy he should have sent the defendant to prison, but as there was no evidence of it, he fined him 20s., with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment. Mr. Charles Nunn, a tobacconist, of the Ledbury-road, Bayswater, was summoned by Mr. Wright for Sunday trading, and fined 5s. and 2s. costs.

POLICE RAID ON A BETTING-HOUSE.—At Southwark, on Tuesday, John Bloomfield, thirty-six, landlord of the Glow-worm beer-house, 30, Abbey-street, Bermondsey, was charged before Mr. Partridge with keeping and using the house No. 30, Abbey-street, for betting purposes, and betting with persons in it; and George Lewis, thirty-four, of 4, Carlton-road, Peckham, carman, with a sitting in conducting the same; and Charles Mayes, thirty-nine, shoemaker; Samuel Stone, forty, saucemaker; J. Squares, twenty-five, fishmonger; Charles Gardner, twenty-seven, leather sorter; William Allison, thirty-nine, skinner; Richard Baxter, forty, leather-dresser; Daniel Bedford, fifty, porter; G. Drake, thirty-eight, tanner; Arthur Bowditch, forty-two, hatter; J. Babbington, twenty-five; John Creed, twenty-eight, compositor; H. Graves, forty, labourer; and John Barnett, were charged with being found in the house. Mr. Thomas Beard defended Bloomfield and Lewis. Mr. Thomas Garforth, superintendent of the M division, said that on Monday night, acting under the authority of Colonel Henderson, he went to the house kept by the defendant Bloomfield. He was accompanied by Inspectors Watson and Mason, and a number of police-officers. He saw the fifteen prisoners in the public parlour, including Bloomfield and Lewis. Witness asked Bloomfield if he was the landlord, and he said he was. He told him he was a superintendent of police, and asked if he had not a book in his pocket. He said he had, and took out the book produced, which was an ordinary betting-book. He then informed him he should take him into custody for keeping his house open for betting purposes. He replied that it was a bad job. Witness then directed Inspector Watson to search the place for lists or cards relating to betting. He afterwards asked Bloomfield if he had any more papers about him. Bloomfield then produced a book from his pocket; but witness was not sure the entries in it related to betting then; but it had since been examined by another witness. The other thirteen defendants were seated at tables, drinking and smoking. In reply to Mr. Beard, witness stated that Bloomfield said, when he took the book from his pocket, that he made bets in the City, but not in his house. Inspector Watson said he accompanied the superintendent to the defendant Bloomfield's house. According to directions, he searched the house. In the bar-parlour he found two books, *Wright's Monthly Turf Guide for 1871* and *Wright's Racing Turf Guide for 1870*. In reply to witness, Bloomfield said he was not aware he had any other books relating to betting. Witness however, found in the first-floor sitting-room a book containing entries of bets for the Derby. To these bets he found the names attached of some of the other defendants. A book was also found in a cupboard containing entries relating to the Cesarewitch, amounting to £112 6s. 6d. He had examined one of the books produced by the superintendent, and found it contained accounts of betting transactions. Inspector Mason took Lewis into custody, and told him he would be charged with assisting in the betting at the house. Upon asking him if he had any books, he produced one from his pocket. He denied having any more, but witness found another one in a side pocket, called "Weaklin and Flint's Derby Betting-Book." He had since examined that book, and found 960 bets entered, varying from 2s. 6d. to £3. He found also in the book the names of some of the other defendants. The de-

fendant had also upon him some of Bloomfield's address-cards and £3 4s. 5d. in money. Sergeant Coucher, 2 M, said, according to instructions he first visited Bloomfield's house on May 13, and heard him talking to a man in front of the bar. The man asked the odds on some horse. He asked eighteens, but Bloomfield offered sixteens, which was accepted, at the same time saying, "Book it." Bloomfield said he would find it all right. On the 15th witness saw many persons in front of the bar, all talking about betting. Bloomfield was there, and witness saw him receive 5s. from a man as a bet on a horse called Captivator. Bloomfield then called Lewis from the parlour, to whom he handed the money, saying, "Book it on Captivator to Barton, at the market price." Witness also saw Bloomfield receive 15s. from another man, and again heard him tell Lewis to book it on a horse called Cincinnati. In the parlour a man said it was a shame that some bet had not been paid, and Bloomfield replied that it would be all right, that he would be answerable for it for a hundred pounds, and he would see the man the next day in the City. On the 19th he heard a man talking to Bloomfield about the odds on horses, and by his direction the man went to the back parlour, as he said the books were there. Upon the man returning he said he could only get tens. Shortly afterwards witness saw a man place three half-crowns upon the counter in Bloomfield's presence, and it was taken up by Lewis. Betting was freely talked about, and offers made by Bloomfield and Lewis, the former accepting two bets and booking them. He also offered to bet a new hat on some horse, but a man there said, "You will make plenty of new hats out of your book." Cross-examined: Had asked Bloomfield the odds with regard to Albert Victor, as he was anxious to bet, and Bloomfield said he did not keep a book, although he had backed the horse himself. Other witnesses were called in support of the charge. Mr. Beard contended that the house had not been "knowingly and wilfully" kept open for the purpose of betting. Bloomfield might have acted indiscreetly in allowing others to do so. He had not really received any money for a bet, and the simple entry of a bet in a book, without money passing, did not bring him within the meaning of the statute. Mr. Partridge considered the evidence quite sufficient to convict both Bloomfield and Lewis. After alluding to the defence set up, he said it would have been very unjust if the Act was intended to put down only regular betting-houses, and at the same time permitted betting to be carried on in beershops and public-houses or other establishments. The Legislature intended, no doubt, to include all houses. He should order Bloomfield to pay the full penalty of £400, or, in default of distress, three months' imprisonment. Lewis would have to pay a fine of £50, or six weeks. The other defendants were ordered to enter into recognisances to appear to answer the charge when called upon.

REFUGES FOR HOMELESS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—The twenty-third public meeting of this institution was held, on Monday night, at Exeter Hall—the Earl of Shaftesbury presiding, supported by a large number of its friends and well-wishers. The report, which was read by Mr. Williams, the indefatigable secretary, was very voluminous, and gave a sketch of the origin and progress of the institution. Its history is a somewhat remarkable illustration of the great results which sometimes spring from small beginnings. It commenced its operations as a night ragged-school, in a hayloft over a cowshed, in the once well-known "Rookery" of St. Giles, open on two nights a week only. To this were gradually added a girls' sewing class, Sunday morning, afternoon, and evening schools, a provident fund, and other benevolent agencies. Then, in 1852, came the addition of the refuge, when six boys and six girls were admitted to the home in Broad-street. In 1843 the contributions in support of the work of the society amounted to £180; in 1860 the income had risen to upwards of £4000 per annum; and last year reached the substantial sum of £22,300 odd. Ten years ago the society had but 172 boys and girls under its care; now it has 632. During that period it has opened a boys' country home, farm, and industrial school; has started an emigration fund for youthful emigrants; has added a large home at Ealing, in lieu of a smaller one at Acton; has increased its ragged-school operations greatly; and has established the Chichester training-ship for the reception of homeless and destitute boys. This latter feature in the work of the institution took its rise in a supper given to the homeless boys of London, in 1866, as did also the establishment of the country home and farm school, both of which are most useful branches of the good work undertaken. The refuge work continues to be what it has been from the date of its commencement, a home for the homeless and destitute. It is the largest in London, and is doing a noble work among the children of the poor and needy. It is carried on at 8, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields; the training-ship Chichester, lying off Greenwich; and at the farm at Bisley, in Surrey. These establishments are for boys; the homes for girls being at 19, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, and at Ealing House, Ealing. In these four homes and the ship there are 632 inmates—viz., 466 boys and 166 girls; and it is not difficult to imagine what these boys and girls would have passed through and ultimately become if the hand of benevolence had not been held forth to them. To enable both boys and girls to help themselves is the character of the education and training provided. The ragged-school operations and other works of usefulness for the benefit of the poor are carried on at the Boys' Refuge, 8, Great Queen-street; the Girls' Refuge, 19, Broad-street; Little Denmark-street, St. Giles's; and Little Corn-street, Bloomsbury. The payments for the year, including the investment of Mr. Davis's legacy and the building of the new wings at Ealing, amount to £20,820 7s. 7d., which, being deducted from the receipts and balance at the commencement of the year, leaves a balance in hand of £1712 10s. Amongst the speakers at the meeting, in addition to the chairman, were the Rev. Canon Nisbet, the Rev. W. Brock, the Rev. W. Simpson, the Rev. S. W. M'Cree, Mr. W. S. Fitzwilliam, and Mr. W. M. Bullivant. The proceedings of the evening were enlivened by a choir of 600 children, including the sailor boys from the Chichester in their uniform, and the boys from the country home,

singing, under the direction of Mr. Proudman, a selection of pieces in a very creditable style.

SUNDAY FUNERALS.—A meeting of undertakers was held at the Freemasons' Tavern, on Monday, to consider the question of Sunday funerals. The Rev. Horace Roberts, D.D., presided, and resolutions were passed in favour of the abolition of Sunday funerals, as a means of putting a stop to the "indecorous and discreditable scenes" which take place on the roads to and from the metropolitan cemeteries on Sunday, and as tending, by securing a day of rest for the undertakers' men, to confer a signal benefit on the entire trade. It was also resolved that the burial boards of the metropolitan cemeteries should be asked to close their grounds against undertakers on Sunday, and that a deputation of undertakers should wait on the boards. The chairman said that the Tower Hamlets Cemetery had been closed for two years on Sundays, and the superintendent told him that, in a commercial point of view, the cemetery had not suffered. Dr. Roberts also stated that the average number of funerals in the metropolis on each Sunday in the year was 300. This involved the employment of 4250 persons, and, multiplying that by fifty-two, they had a total of 221,000 persons engaged at or attending Sunday funerals in the year. Dr. Waitmore, medical officer of health for Marylebone, supported the abolition of Sunday funerals on sanitary grounds. He said that when a death occurred in a poor family a collection had to be made for the funeral expenses, which often necessitated the postponement of the funeral to the following Sunday week, and this postponement, in a wretched attic, in the midst of a large family, created so tainted an atmosphere that it was surprising a greater number of deaths did not occur among the poor. One of the speakers asserted that many of the Sunday funeral irregularities were owing to the fact that funerals were conducted by persons who were not undertakers, but hucksters, greengrocers, barbers, and others.

BOYS FOR THE NAVY.—Captain W. Gore Jones, Inspector of Training Ships, reports 2931 boys recruited for the Navy in the year 1870. As many as 2308 of them had been pursuing active or outdoor occupations. The list includes 562 tradesmen's boys, 518 errand boys, 561 boys connected with the building trade, 332 farm labourers, 206 schoolboys or clerks, only 182 factory boys. The large number of mason boys indicates continued depression in the building trade, and implies that a large proportion of the entries will always be owing to temporary depression in various occupations. As many as 702 of the boys were born in Middlesex, and 723 in Devonshire. The West of England boys, and also the Irish, are described as a fine type. London is being very carefully worked, and, on the whole, a first-class list is obtained there. London sent 694, carefully selected out of large numbers; but comparatively few of the boys recruited were born in other large towns—only 44 in Liverpool, 55 in Manchester, 44 in Glasgow, 41 in Birmingham, 25 in Bristol. All the boys can read and write, and must be of a high physical standard to enable them to enter; yet the supply is more than equal to the demand. The school test and the necessity of producing the written consent of parents or friends preclude any probability of street Arabs or boys convicted of crime being entered. The new dietary established has had a most direct influence in the recruiting, and boys have flocked in consequence of letters from those already entered, describing the very good treatment they received on board, especially in the matter of food.

TAXATION WITH EXEMPTIONS.—The income tax of India, which is now to be reduced to two pips in the rupee, or 2½d. in the pound, being a fraction above 1 per cent, is to be assessed only on incomes of 750 rupees and upwards; and Sir R. Temple states in his Budget speech that this limitation will reduce the number of persons assessed to about 240,000, which is but one in 625, or (say) one in 120 heads of families, in a population of 150,000,000. We have no official return or estimate of the total number of persons paying income tax in the United Kingdom, but the last return showed nearly a quarter of a million paying on incomes of £100 and under £200 a year, and claiming the exemption of £60 of their income duty free.

RIVAL STOICS.—Some years ago a gentleman living in one of the frontier towns of a far Western State had some friends staying with him, to whom he gave a little dinner, and invited to meet them a few half-civilised Indians. Of course the "noble red men" were treated to delicacies they had not seen before, and displayed a perhaps excusable inclination to "go through" the bill of fare. A young chief, who had partaken of nearly everything on the table, had been eyeing the mustard for some time, no doubt thinking that such a pretty paste would taste as good as it looked. At length opportunity appearing, he reached forth in a dignified manner, took a liberal spoonful, and swallowed it without moving a muscle of his countenance; but, in spite of his utmost exertions, the tears streamed down his cheeks. An aged chief opposite to him, who had been watching the whole proceeding, leaned forward and inquired what he was crying for. He replied, "I was thinking of my poor old father, who died a short time ago." Soon afterwards the "aged," being unable to restrain his curiosity, also solemnly took a dip from the mustard-pot, and swallowed it without the quivering of a muscle; but his eyes were not so strong as his will, and the little cries trickled down his cheeks. It was now the young red man's turn. Leaning forward, he inquired the cause of the grief, to which the elderly red party replied, "I was thinking 'twas a pity you hadn't died when your poor old father did."—*Harper's Magazine.*

A MIRAGE.—The Scotch papers report a mirage at the mouth of the Forth on Sunday. The weather was remarkably warm, and in the afternoon there was a dull, deceptive haze. The sea presented almost the appearance of a mirror, and the vessels upon it seemed to have a double reflection from the sea and the background beyond. At one time the masts and rigging seemed elongated to four or five times their natural length, and then in the course of a few minutes they were reduced so as to be scarcely visible. At other times the vessels appeared to be sailing double—one ship in sea and one in air. Extraordinary appearances were assumed by the May Island, which rose and

fell and changed to all manner of shapes in the course of a few minutes. At one time it appeared a perpendicular wall, rising to the height of several hundred feet, and shortly afterwards it appeared to be flat on the surface of the sea. All the other objects which came within the range of the refraction underwent similar changes; and the illusion lasted, with varying features, several hours.

SHOCKING DEATH OF A LADY.—On Wednesday afternoon an elderly lady named Mrs. Florence Dowell was knocked down by an express train and cut to pieces at the Twelve-Acre-Field level crossing on the London and Brighton Railway.

THE LONDON GAZETTE.

FRIDAY, MAY 19.

BANKRUPTCY ANNULLED.—W. H. HENWOOD, Lewisham, bankrupt.
BANKRUPTS.—S. GRIFFITHS, Tower-street, London-fields.
B. HEALEY, Leadenhall-street, colonial broker—E. COTTEAM, Blackburn, resinsmaker—F. ENSOR, West Bromwich, Staffordshire, engineer—S. HUMBY, Downton, Wiltshire, coal merchant—J. KNIGHT, Leicester, bookseller—E. LAMBERT, Leeds, bootdealer—M. MILLS, Manchester, printer—J. METCALFE, Barron Mills, Suffolk, publican—M. MAXFIELD, Grassington, Yorkshire, innkeeper—E. NEVILL, Wheaton Aston, Staffordshire, innkeeper—T. STEED, jun., Brandon, Suffolk, wine merchant—W. D. STEVENS, Hull, joiner—C. WINTERCOBAN, Childer Thornton, Cheshire, licensed victualler—J. ANDERSON, Salford, Lancashire, blacksmith.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—J. ANDERSON, Glasgow, cotton broker—A. HANING, Irongray, Kirkcubrightshire—J. TAYLOR, Aberdeen, rope manufacturer—D. HUNTER, Maxwelltown, Kirkcubrightshire, millwright.

TUESDAY, MAY 22.

BANKRUPTS.—F. S. BAYLEY, Conduit-street, Regent-street—E. ASHBURY, Birmingham, retail brewer—C. BARRON, Liverpool, broker—J. FAIRBY, Middleborough, jeweller—J. HETHERINGTON, Worthington, grocer—R. JONES, Llanauhan, draper—J. JOWSEY, Middlesborough, carrier—J. B. and J. B. LEVILL, Manchester, clothiers—P. R. MILLER, Birmingham, hay-factor—S. PAGE, Upper Bangor, provision-dealer.
SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.—R. CLELAND, Govan, starch manufacturer—A. DUFF, Inverness, joiner—R. RUSSELL, Glasgow, bookseller—J. R. SEXTON, Inkehead, Dunnet, cattle dealer—F. W. SMITH, Wishaw, baker—M. SPENCER, Thurso, innkeeper.

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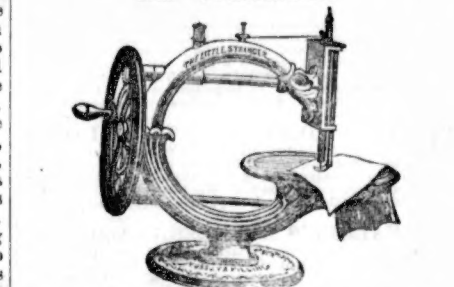
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